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Help to the Study the Holy Spirit

By

WILLIAM EDWARD BIEDERWOLF

Author of "How Can God Answer Prayer," "The
Growing Christian," "The White Life,"
"Christian Science," etc., etc.

Introduction by

WILLIAM G. MOOREHEAD, D.D.

FOURTH EDITION

Revised and Enlarged



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This Book is Inscribed in Remembrance

— OF —

GEORGE TYBOUT PURVES

In becoming admiration for his high scholarship and his
fidelity to the Word of God ; in loving testimony to his
Christian manhood and his public service and with
a grateful sense of his personal kindness.

By one who knew him, learned of him,
and loved him —

THE AUTHOR.



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INTRODUCTION.

Our age is distinguished for its earnestness of study in the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The last quarter of a century has been remarkable for a productiveness of books on this great subject. Naturally, there is considerable diversity as to the relative value of works on the person and the functions of the Spirit. Some confine themselves to a single phase of the Spirit's activity, while others treat of Him both as to His person and work. In all, however, there is apparent the desire to be true to the Scripture, which must always remain the one unchanging source of knowledge on this as on all other parts of revealed truth. There is manifest likewise the honest effort to be helpful to Christians who long to know more of the gracious Spirit without whose presence and assistance they feel themselves powerless as witnesses for Christ.

However copiously treated, the great theme is not exhausted, nor can it be. For it is with one of the Persons of the Godhead we are dealing, hence the theme is an infinite one. Accordingly, fresh studies on it are always in place. No one book nor all books combined have here spoken the last word. This mine of truth will be as productive for the generations to

come as it has been in the ages past. Since the Spirit is the Author of that mighty change in men commonly called regeneration, since He is the fountain of all true holiness of life in the saved, since it is He who baptizes believers into the one Body, and is Himself the gracious Habitant of the body, fitting it by His presence and His grace for its glorious destiny, every new effort to shed light on His blessed work should be welcomed with gladness by the people of God.

It is with sincere pleasure that this book by the Rev. W. E. Biedewolf is commended to Christian people. Certain features in it are noteworthy. First, it is conservative. By this is not meant that it deals only with those phases of the Spirit's work that are universally recognized and accepted, while those more recondite and difficult are passed over in silence, for the author grapples with some of the most mysterious and abstruse features of the great problem. What is meant is, that the author is ruled by a wise caution in his treatment of the theme, and particularly in his expositions. He brings his views and the views of others also to the word of God as the arbiter and final test. There are no rash statements to be found in it, and no fanciful or extreme positions are assumed. While not ignoring Christian experience touching the presence and influence of the Spirit in individual believers, the author observes on this profound and mysterious point a commendable reserve, and speaks with the hesitancy that must ever become the reverent

inquirer in this field. And this is praiseworthy; for after all, blessed as Christian experience is, it is not nor can be the ultimate court of appeal in determining the divine action of the Spirit, nor can general deductions be drawn therefrom as to how He operates and why. Our Lord spoke a very profound word, when, speaking of the Comforter, He said, "He shall not speak from Himself; He shall glorify Me." Rarely does the Spirit invite our attention to His own presence and work in the soul; rather, He uniformly turns our thoughts and affections to the Lord Jesus, the object of our faith, the center and sum of our hope. We have long been convinced that to study the presence and work of the Spirit in the believer apart from the word is a mistake if not a perilous experiment. Even His witness with our spirit that we are the children of God (Rom. 8:16) is not apart from the word, nor yet from the glory of Christ in whom alone we are brought into the filial relation (Jno. 1:12). Scripture holds the supreme place, and the author of this book uniformly turns to it for light and guidance.

Another thing is, these studies are reverential. There is everywhere manifest complete subjection to the authority of Scripture, and confidence in its unerring teaching. This is refreshing, particularly in these degenerate times, when too many, alas, seem disposed to sit in judgment on the word, or bend it into conformity with their theories and presuppositions. Loyalty to God's truth is fast becoming the

burning question of our day, even among evangelical churches. Because of its unquestioning loyalty, this book will prove helpful and stimulating.

Still another interesting feature of it is, its excellent bibliography. Most of that which has been published on the Holy Spirit since John Owen's book finds a place in this well-selected list.

That God may use these studies relating to the person and work of His Divine Spirit for the furtherance of His cause and the good of His people is the prayer of the writer.

WILLIAM G. MOOREHEAD. .

Xenia Theological Seminary.

BY WAY OF EXPLANATION.

This little book is the outgrowth of the writer's own perplexity. This age is the dispensation of the third Person of the Trinity. For nineteen hundred years we have been saying, "I believe in the Holy Ghost," but how much do we believe in Him, and what is it we believe about Him? The method of his operation must forever remain an inscrutable mystery to finite minds, and subtle metaphysical distinctions are as useless here as they are presumptuous; but when once we realize that every relationship to the Father and the Son is brought about, and every treasure of their infinite love is made over to us through that operation, it will not seem strange that such great emphasis should be laid upon the necessity of an appreciation of what those relationships and treasures are in order to His Presence and power within us, such as God's plan for our Christian experience involves.

The surprising thing is, that this emphasis has been so long delayed; indeed, the past nineteen years have seen more literature on this subject issue from the press than all the rest of the nineteen hundred together. The "Bibliotheca" for forty-six years from the date of its first publication, 1844, contains not

one article on the Holy Spirit; for more than forty years, from 1839, the "Methodist Quarterly" contained but one article; the "Princeton Review," in fifty-six years, from 1838, only one, and the same thing is true of all other theological magazines. Dr. Charles Hodge gave us three ponderous volumes of Systematic Theology, containing two thousand and three hundred pages, and of this number only twelve pages were devoted to the subject of the Holy Spirit; and here, as well as in all other such literature, the question, as a matter of course, has been treated wholly as a theological dogma, with but little meaning for the life and experience of the believer.

Surely in this day of spiritism this emphasis upon the relationship to the human soul of The Spirit, who is to "guide into all truths," is timely and fortunate. Would we but be guided by His gentle whisperings, what absurdities of belief and denials of Him of whom He came to witness might be spared. Yet not alone for this, but for what it is the privilege and the duty of a Spirit-indwelt man to be and do, is not this revival of interest in the teaching of the Scriptures concerning the Person and work of the Holy Spirit of God and of His Son Christ Jesus a matter of great rejoicing?

It is hoped this little volume will commend itself, not as an earlier or later view simply clothed in new language, nor yet as another opinion on this so vitally important subject; human opinion is a worthless thing if only Scripture hath spoken plainly. Nor has it been

meant in any way as controversial. The writer in his own anxiety to appreciate his privilege as a child of the Almighty has been left in confusion and uncertainty by at least seemingly contradictory statements of different teachers upon the relationship of this blessed Spirit of God to His children. For instance, when Dr. James Gray ("The Holy Spirit and the Believer," page 16) says, "The filling of the Spirit is for holiness," and Dr. Torrey ("The Baptism of the Holy Ghost," page 6) says, "The baptism of the Spirit has nothing to do directly with cleansing from sin, but is connected with service," and when Dr. Gray (same page) says, "The anointing is for service," and Campbell Morgan ("Spirit of God," page 194) says, "The anointing which is on the child of God is that which was received at regeneration, and is not an experience after such a time," and when Dr. Chapman ("Received Ye the Holy Ghost," page 75) says, "It is unscriptural for the Christian to be talking about the baptism of the Holy Ghost," and MacNeil ("Spirit-filled Life," page 38) says, "It surely cannot be unscriptural for a believer to pray, 'Lord Jesus, baptize me with the Holy Ghost;'" when these and many other such statements of apparent contradiction confront us we wonder whether the brethren are disagreeing about experiences which are vitally important to every earnest child of God, or whether it is merely a difference in nomenclature which amounts to nothing; and we have longed for some one to bring harmony, if possible, out of this apparent confusion. It is with

this in view the writer has gone into a careful and, he hopes, an impartial exegesis of every passage in the Old and New Scriptures where mention is made of the Holy Spirit. It is his earnest desire that these pages be received in the spirit they have been produced, not as a challenge to any man's teaching, but as a sincere effort to get such teaching before us alongside the Word of God in such a way that the earnest inquirer may come out of what to many has been a state of perplexity, to an appreciation of his spiritual privilege such as will commend itself to his own soul.

To this end and that the student may gain a comprehensive view of the present-day teaching, this teaching has been taken in quotation from the various volumes, the exact reference being noted in each instance by the page where it is written, and when alongside has been brought all of such Scripture as will bear upon the teaching in question, an endeavor has been made to help the reader to what we believe should commend itself to him as a safe and impartial explanation of such Scripture, and consequently the Scriptural way of viewing the matter under consideration.

The multiplication of words has been studiously avoided; little thought is paid to style, other than to make it too plain for any misconstruction to be placed upon its meaning. A Bibliography has been added for those wishing to prosecute more thoroughly this important study.

With earnest prayer that the blessing of Him of whom it so unworthily speaks may rest upon this humble effort to the edification and comfort of those in whom He dwells, it is sent forth upon its mission.

W. E. B.

CHAPTER I.

THE NAME OF THE SPIRIT.



IN the Old Testament are found ninety distinct references to the Holy Spirit, among which are eighteen different designations; in the New Testament, two hundred and sixty-four references and thirty-nine different designations; five of these are common to both, thus leaving fifty-two designations in the entire Word; expressive of His relation to God, seventeen; to the Son, five; to man, nineteen; of His own character, seven, and of His essential deity, five. For an exhaustive tabulation of these designations, see Macgregor, "Things of the Spirit," page 17, or Cumming, "Through the Eternal Spirit," page 48. In the above fifty-two instances, four times He is called the Comforter, forty-

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three times the Spirit, in some one of His relations, the remaining five being descriptive phrases of the same Person. We have then two names applied to the third Person of the Trinity, namely, the Holy Spirit and the Comforter.

“ Spiritus ” is the Latin word synonymous with the Greek word “ Pneuma,” both literally signifying “ breath ” or “ wind.” As applied to the Divine essence, there can be no allusion to their original meaning, which is but the imagery representative of the Holy Spirit’s presence and approach to men. The Holy Spirit is called the “ breath of God ” with reference to His mode of subsistence, proceeding from God as the breath from the mouth. Notice the characteristic action of Jesus in John 20:22. In referring to the breath or spirit of man the old English used the word “ ghost,” — giving up the ghost; and so of the breath of God was used the expression “ Holy Ghost,” and while the weird associations of the word ghost in its present-day signification are all forgotten when this blessed Personality is so

designated, yet since the Latin "Spirit" has so truly become a part of the English language, it would seem to be the more preferable designation of the two, which the American Revised Version has accordingly adopted. The Holy Spirit is not therefore called Spirit on account of the spirituality of His essence, for this is likewise to be predicated of the Father and of the Son. Neither is He called Holy with reference to the holiness of His nature, for He is no more so than either of the other Persons of the Trinity; it has reference to His official character; He is the author of all holiness.

The other designation of this Holy Personage is the "Comforter," so called four times by Jesus in His farewell discourse, John 14:16, 26; 15:26, and 16:7. This is the only single appellation suggestive of the Spirit's character and work. The Greek word is "Parakletos." Given by Jesus as descriptive of "another" one like Himself, rich in meaning as is the word itself, as a name for this divine Person whose relation to the Christian is so

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intimate, it ought to commend itself strongly and tenderly to the heart of every child of God. Because no word in the English language can furnish us with a translation co-extensive with the infinite stretches of meaning in this word Paraclete, why, instead of crippling it with inadequate translations, is it not better to Anglicize it into Paraclete and so retain it both in Scripture and in usage?

The same word in I John 2:1, referring to Christ, is translated "Advocate," and Meyer, Godet, Westcott, and many others so translate it in the Gospel, while Alford, Schaff, and as many others retain the translation "Comforter." Philologically "parakletos" can no more be rendered "comforter" than can "kletos" be rendered "caller"; this last must be "called," and, therefore, "parakletos," "called to aid"; hence advocate, which accords with Greek usage where friends or agents stood before the judge to plead the cause of another.

The verb from which it comes is always, save in Acts 28:20, used in the sense of "to

comfort," but this active sense is easily contained in the idea of an advocate as involved in the passive "called to aid." An advocate is one who stands by (*Beistand-DeWette*), not only as an intercessor but as a helper, comforter, and consoler. Furthermore, the noun was evidently imported irrespective of its derivation from the then current judicial phraseology, and this observation has all the more weight, inasmuch as John, the only one who uses the noun *Parakletos*, is precisely the one who never uses the verb from which it is derived, and which is elsewhere so common in the New Testament. To this add the express use of "Advocate" in I John 2:1, and it would seem that such must have been the idea in the mind of Jesus as interpreted by John.

Hence, if the word *Paraclete* is not to be retained, then of the two translations under consideration, "Advocate," as the more grammatical and the more inclusive, should be given preference; but it must be remembered that comforting and aiding is an important part

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of a real advocate's work; yet as the thought of pleading is so prominently and almost exclusively associated with the word advocate in this day, we are more than ever impressed with the wisdom of retaining the original word Paraclete, — called to aid.

How much they would need such an one; Jesus had indeed been a Paraclete unto them. One upon whom they had leaned in every perplexity and trial; but now He was going away; welcome indeed, then, must have been His words falling in rich promise upon their waiting hearts. They were not to be deserted, but "another" Paraclete, such an one as Jesus was and yet another, was to come; indeed the Coming One was to be no other than Christ Himself — "I will not leave you orphans; I will come unto you." Not only was the Paraclete to take the place of the Christ they knew and loved and leaned upon in human form, but in His coming was to be returned to them in presence invisible their then exalted and glorified Friend, by whose loss they were now about to be bereaved.

CHAPTER II.

THE ADVENT OF THE SPIRIT.



HE Holy Spirit has ever been omnipresent, but He is here to-day in a sense which was not always true of Him. Three distinct periods of His operation are witnessed in the Word.

I. From creation to Christ; He shared the creative work, Gen. 1:2.

He came upon men in the Old Testament, I Sam. 10:6; He entered into them, Ez. 2:2; He filled them, Ex. 28:3; He strove with men, Gen. 6:3, and spoke to them, Ezk. 2:2.

II. From Christ to Pentecost. He filled John the Baptist, Luke 1:15; Elizabeth, Luke 1:41; Zacharias, Luke 1:67, and the Saviour. The Saviour

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- (a) Was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Matt. 1:18, 20; Lu. 1:35.
- (b) Was anointed by the Holy Spirit, Matt. 3:16, 17; Mk. 1:10, 11; Lu. 3:21, 22; 4:18, and John 1:32, 33.
- (c) Was led by the Holy Spirit, Matt. 4:1; Mk. 1:12; Lu. 4:1.
- (d) Was taught by the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:2; John 14:10, 24.
- (e) Wrought miracles by the Holy Spirit, Matt. 12:28; Lu. 11:20.
- (f) Offered Himself up through the Holy Spirit, Heb. 9:14.
- (g) Was raised by the Holy Spirit, Rom. 8:11 and 1:4.

III. From Pentecost to Parousia. Pentecost has been called by Augustine the "dies natalis" of the Holy Spirit. That the Holy Spirit came to us in this world shortly after the Saviour's ascension in a new and permanent capacity, the words of John 7:39 make evident, which coming was in fulfilment both of Old Testament prophecy, Joel 2:28, with Acts 2:39, and of the Saviour's promise in John 14:16 and 15:26. See also Acts 2:33. In one sense always here, but in another His

abode before Pentecost was with the Father. Strictly speaking, there can be no localization of an omnipresent being since His omnipresence relates to His essence and His comings and goings are accommodations to finite conception.

The chief differences between His relation to the first and third periods designated are:

1. In the first He came occasionally. "A transient visitor" — Augustine; in the third He came to "abide" forever. John 14: 16.
2. In the first He equipped a few men for the accomplishment of a special work; in the third He offers Himself in fulness to all, Acts 2: 39.

Notice also that in the first He was not revealed to the saints as a personality distinct from God; God was known and worshipped in His unity; the Trinity, though implied, was not clearly revealed.

The time of the Spirit's coming to take up His permanent abode in the church was fifty days after the Saviour's resurrection, and

called Pentecost, which in itself has no suggestion of fulness or outpouring, but is simply a designation of time meaning "fiftieth." The entire arrangement was definitely foreshadowed in Old Testament rites, Lev. 23: 11-16.

I. The slaying of the paschal lamb typified the sacrifice of the Saviour foretelling the day of its occurrence.

II. "On the morrow after the Sabbath" was the sheaf of first fruits to be waved before the Lord, foretelling the resurrection on the first day of the week.

III. Then "seven Sabbaths shall be completed even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall ye number fifty days," foretelling the time of the Spirit's advent.

The disciples were told to tarry, Luke 24: 49, and they would be filled with the Spirit; they tarried ten days and the filling came. How often are they represented as wondering during these ten days why the filling did not come, and possibly they did; but when it is said it was a waiting consequent upon the

necessity of their first being emptied, we lose sight altogether of the dispensational character of the arrangement. They waited ten days for no other reason save that it was yet ten days until the fiftieth day would come. If the disciples did not at first divine this, as the days passed without the promise fulfilled, it would certainly have dawned upon them as the fiftieth day drew near.

I. The time of the Spirit's advent was determined by the Saviour's glorification, John 7:39, and this finds explanation in that the office of the Spirit is to communicate to the church and to realize in the church the benefits of Christ's work, and only when this work was completed, when He had died for our sins, risen again for our justification, ascended to glory, there to be our Intercessor with the Father, — only then could the Holy Spirit have a finished image to complete in the soul. "The Divine Artist could not fitly descend to make the copy before the original had been provided." — Archer Butler.

II. Pentecost inaugurated the mystical

Church of Christ. The disciples who followed Jesus were no longer a mere number of individuals concurring in sentiment concerning their Master, but were merged into a living vital unity, a temple indwelt of God through the Spirit, Eph. 2:21, 22; I Cor. 3:16.

III. Pentecost was the Installation day of the Holy Spirit as Administrator of the affairs of the church "until He come."

IV. Pentecost can no more be repeated than can Bethlehem, Calvary, or the Resurrection.

CHAPTER III.

THE PERSONALITY OF THE SPIRIT.



IS the Holy Spirit an influence, a virtue, an emanation from or manifestation of the divine, a mere impersonal force, or is the Holy Spirit a person intelligent and active? That the latter is true and not the former the following considerations will make apparent.

I. The essential parts of personality are four: Understanding, will, affection, and appreciation of the moral. All these are predicated of the Holy Spirit.

- (a) He is said to know the things of God, I Cor. 2:10, 11.
- (b) He distributes His gifts to every man as He will, I Cor. 12:11.
- (c) He loves and may be grieved, II Tim. 1:7 and Eph. 4:30.

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(On the Love of the Spirit, see Cumming, "Through the Eternal Spirit," page 175.)

- (d) He reproves of sin, Jno. 16:9, and guides into truth, Jno. 16:13.

II. Functions not ascribable to an influence, or to aught save a person, are attributed to the Holy Spirit. He hears, Jno. 16:13. He speaks, Acts 10:19; 13:2, 8; 8:29; Jno. 16:13; Mark 13:11; Heb. 3:7. He prays, Rom. 8:26. He teaches, Luke 12:12; Jno. 14:26. He forbids, Acts 16:6, 7. He comforts, Acts 9:31. He guides, Jno. 16:13. He reveals, Jno. 16:14, 15; Luke 2:26. He witnesses, Rom. 8:16. He strives with men, Gen. 6:3. He quickens the memory, Jno. 14:26. He performs miracles, Acts 2:4; 8:39. He calls to the ministry, Acts 13:2, and sets pastors over churches, Acts 20:28.

III. Men sustain relations toward the Holy Spirit such as are possible only toward a person. They grieve Him, Eph. 4:30; they resist Him, Acts 7:51; they sin against Him, Matt. 12:31; Mark 3:29; they invoke His

communion, II Cor. 13:14; they are baptized into His name, Matt. 28:19; they lie to Him, Acts 5:3; they rebel against Him, Isa. 63:10; they insult Him, Heb. 10:29.

IV. The name given to the Holy Spirit and the pronouns used in reference to Him are distinct proofs of His personality.

- (a) Jesus calls Him Paraclete, or one who comforts or stands by to aid.
- (b) Jesus uses the masculine pronoun, "When He, the Spirit, is come, He," etc. Even in John 14:26, where the neuter relative agrees with the noun Spirit, the following pronoun, which naturally would be neuter, is masculine.

V. That the Holy Spirit is a personality distinct from the Father and the Son is evident from the fact that He is said to be the Spirit of God, Matt. 3:16; I Cor. 6:11; II Cor. 3:3; I Peter 4:14; and the Spirit of Christ, Rom. 8:9; Phil. 1:19; Acts 16:7. He proceedeth from God, John 15:26; He is sent by the Father, John 14:26, and by

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the Son, John 16:26. They could not send themselves. Jesus says He will send another Paraclete, namely, one distinct from Himself, and in Romans 8:26, the Spirit is said to make intercession; certainly the Father could not make intercession to Himself. How the idea of the Holy Spirit as a distinct personality could be more clearly set forth than is done in the Word of God is impossible for an unbiased mind to conceive.

CHAPTER IV.

THE DEITY OF THE SPIRIT.



THE names of Divinity are ascribed to Him. In Isa. 6:8, Isaiah says, "I heard the voice of Jehovah saying," etc. In Acts 28:25, 26, Paul, quoting the passage, says, "Well spake the Holy Spirit by Isaiah." In Jer. 31:31, it is said, "Behold the days come saith Jehovah," etc. In Heb. 10:15, it is said, referring to the same passage, "The Holy Spirit after that He said," etc. In Acts 5:4, He is expressly called God. Peter said Satan had inspired Ananias to lie to the Holy Spirit, and then he added, "Thou hast not lied unto men but unto God." See also II Cor. 3:17, 18 (A. R. V.), where He is

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called the Lord. See also Eph. 2:22; I Cor. 6:19; Rom. 8:9, 10.

II. The perfections of Divinity are ascribed to the Holy Spirit. The attributes of God are the attributes of the Holy Spirit.

- (a) Eternity, Heb. 9:14. Unto Him as unto Jehovah can the lofty praise of Ps. 90:2, be ascribed.
- (b) Omniscience, I Cor. 2:10, 11; Isa. 40:13.
- (c) Omnipotence, Micah 3:8. Proven by His works. (See III.)
- (d) Omnipresence, Ps. 139:7, 10. Same idea in reference to God, Jer. 23:24.

III. The works of Divinity are ascribed to the Holy Spirit.

- (a) The work of creation is His. Gen. 1:2; Job 26:13; Ps. 33:6; Job 33:4.
- (b) The work of providence is His, Ps. 104:30.
- (c) The work of regeneration and resurrection is His, Jno. 3:5, and Rom. 8:11. He is in fact the source of the miraculous, Matt. 12:28; I Cor. 12:9, 11.

IV. The worship of Divinity is given to Him.

- (a) We are baptized into the name of the Holy Spirit as well as that of the Father and the Son, thus setting forth an equality of dignity among the three.
- (b) Seven times in Rev. obedience to His admonition is enjoined upon us.
- (c) While there is no mention of direct prayer to Him, it is involved in His name (Paraclete—one called to aid) and also in the Apostolic benediction, II Cor. 13:14, and the invocation of John, Rev. 1:4, 5.
- (d) He may be sinned against—in fact, the only sin that can never be pardoned is directed against the Holy Spirit, Matt. 12:31, 32, in view of which His Godhead must certainly be recognized.

CHAPTER V.

THE SEALING OF THE SPIRIT.



THE idea of a seal is twofold, that of authentication and ownership or security. In John 6:27, God's seal upon Christ is made to consist in the miracles wrought by Christ through the power of the Spirit given to Him without measure, — that is authentication.

In Eph. 1:13, believers are sealed with the promised Spirit, promised by God through Joel.

Every genuine believer is sealed. The sealing is "next after faith," says Professor Smeaton. Logically and theologically this is true, but chronologically they are practically simultaneous, — "upon believing we are sealed." Believing is essential to and the

foundation of sealing. The literal reading of Eph. 1 : 13 is "having believed," not "after that ye believed, — ye were sealed." Campbell Morgan is therefore right when he says, "*The Sealing of the Spirit is identical with regeneration*" ("Spirit of God," page 192). He, in fact, makes it identical with the baptism of the Spirit, but in his mind this last is the same with regeneration.

Moule refers the sealing to such experiences as Acts 8:17 and 10:44. MacNeil ("Spirit-filled Life," page 45) says it is the same as the baptism of the Spirit, by which he means a definite post-regenerative experience, and that Paul in Eph. 1 : 13 had in mind the incident of Acts 19:1-7, which, however, is altogether gratuitous. Gordon ("Ministry of the Spirit," pages 88 and 99) and Cumming ("Through the Eternal Spirit," page 112) have likewise so construed its meaning. Each of these last three writers conceives of the Filling of the Spirit and the Baptism of the Spirit and the Enduement of the Spirit as a later experience than regeneration, and

make these and the sealing equivalent to one and the same thing; and unless Dr. John Owen, who has written so exhaustively on this subject ("Discourse Concerning the Spirit," pages 406, 407), is to be quoted in support of the same position, his language at this point is not without ambiguity; all of which is very surprising.

Such experiences as the above mentioned are seals in the sense of God's approval and confirmation, but either to thus limit the idea of a seal or to make such its primal reference is grammatically out of harmony with every New Testament passage which refers to the believer's sealing, as well as the only reference it can possibly bear so far as the idea of ownership and security is involved in the word, which idea in this passage, Eph. 1:13, as in others similar to it, is God's ownership and securing of His people, — of all believers. So teach Meyer, Ellicott, Hodge, Riddle, and Smeaton. Of course God demands holiness, II Tim. 2:19, but it is faith that saves, and to make God's ownership depend on the filling

of the Spirit is to make it, according to the construction of those with whom we are now taking issue, depend on something subsequent to regeneration. It is sad that all Christians are not filled with the Spirit; it would be sadder still to think that all who are not thus filled will be disowned in the day of redemption "unto" which we are sealed. See Eph. 4:30. *Every Christian is sealed and has the "earnest of the Spirit," which is the Spirit Himself.*

There is one other passage, II Cor. 1:21, 22, "Now he which establisheth us with you in Christ and hath anointed us is God, who hath also sealed us and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." Here Hodge, Ols-hausen, Smeaton, and others refer the "us" in the two last instances not alone to Paul and Timothy, but to all Christians as well. Meyer and Lange say, Paul designedly distinguishes between "us with you" and "us," and referred the anointing and sealing to teachers only; they, however, admit that even their interpretation would not deny the anointing and sealing to all believers, and quote Eph.

1: 13, and 4: 30, in substantiation. Yes, *every child of God is sealed*, and at the coming of the Lord He shall know us by the sign we bear.

“The allusion to the seal as a pledge of purchase would be peculiarly intelligible to the Ephesians, for Ephesus was a maritime city and an extensive trade in timber was carried on there by the ship masters of the neighboring ports. The method of purchase was this: The merchant, after selecting his timber, stamped it with his own signet, which was an acknowledged sign of ownership. He often did not carry off his possession at the time; it was left in the harbor with other floats of timber; but it was chosen, bought, and stamped, and in due time the merchant sent a trusty agent with the signet, who, finding that timber which bore a corresponding impress, claimed and brought it away for the master's use. Thus the Holy Spirit impresses on the soul now the image of Jesus Christ, and this is the sure pledge of everlasting inheritance.” Bickersteth, “The Spirit of Life.”

CHAPTER VI.

THE ANOINTING OF THE SPIRIT.



IN Luke 4:18, Jesus says He was “anointed,” doubtless referring to His experience at baptism, and in Acts 4:27 and 10:38, the same thing is referred to. In the Old Testament priests, prophets, and kings were anointed to signify their separation and consecration to office, and the passages above referred to contain the same idea. The Anointing, as the Seal, is the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was conceived by the Spirit, Luke 1:35, and like John the Baptist, was certainly filled with the Spirit from His mother’s womb. As a child we know He was filled, Luke 2:40. The reception of the Holy Spirit at His Incarnation may certainly with propriety be called

His first anointing, and may in a sense be considered as His only one. While as regards the baptismal anointing the immediate connection and reference is to the manifest and visible resting upon Jesus of the Spirit at His baptism, yet it is not to be thought of as implying another and distinct reception of the Spirit, but the rather that the Spirit already in Him in fulness manifested Himself in a way annunciatory of Christ's official capacity. Smeaton, page 21, speaks of three degrees in Christ's anointing: at Incarnation, at Baptism, and at Glorification.

"In the New Testament," says Hodge, "official anointing is spoken of only in relation to Christ and never in relation to the Apostles or others." This is true, unless II Cor. 1:21 is an exception, and this we are not inclined to believe. Now in I John 2:20, the anointing is predicated of all believers; so likewise in II Cor. 1:21. There are those who speak of receiving an anointing for each particular service (referring of course to a special filling for such special work), but such a use of the word anointing is without Scriptural warrant. Oth-

ers draw such inference from the supposed analogy between Christ, the Anointed One, and Christians, but this is, after all, a supposition which receives no encouragement from the reasonable inference of God's dealings with the perfect pattern and its imperfect imitations. Morgan (page 194) has rightly said, "The anointing which is on the child of God is that which was received at regeneration."

Gordon says, "Sealing and anointing and enduement (and by 'endument' he means the Baptism of the Spirit which in his mind is the same with the Filling of the Spirit) are one and the same experience." But if the seal is the sign of ownership, then those without this seal or special enduement are not God's property and the question will arise, how much of an enduement, of a filling, or baptism of the Spirit must one have in order to be owned? As priests and kings were anointed, so Christians receiving an anointing from the Holy One in the moment of regeneration are conformably to Scripture (Rev. 1:6; 5:10) called "priests and kings unto God"; but of

this glory, according to the idea now in review, all are deprived who are without this special post-regenerative experience.

One Christian has or can have no more of an anointing than another; the anointing is the Holy Spirit, and the expression, "the same anointing teacheth you all things," is but a calling to remembrance of what the same writer had said in his Gospel (John 16:13), "Howbeit when He the Spirit of truth is come He will guide you into all truth."

It is well to bear in mind, however, that, although there is no Scriptural mention of the word anointing from which to draw a warrant for applying such a term to any experience of the believer apart from his regeneration, yet there can be no reasonable objection to the use of such a term in connection with a post-regenerative experience if only we are careful to distinguish what is meant by it. If the search be one of words, once regenerated, there is no other anointing; if it be one of experience, call it what you will so long as the above caution be observed. *The Holy Spirit taking*

up His abode in the individual seals him by that very act and also, according to Scriptural usage, anoints him; then once within, He endues the soul with power according to the freedom given Him and the needs of the occasion. This it will shortly appear is the filling of the Spirit, but when that occasion is the going forth to service this preparation of the servant may with no impropriety be called an anointing, if it be borne in mind that it is nothing other than the Spirit's filling for the special service at hand.

CHAPTER VII.

THE COMMUNION OF THE SPIRIT.



IN II Cor. 13:14, Paul invokes for the Corinthian Christians the "communion of the Holy Spirit." It is impossible to tell precisely what Paul meant by the word translated communion, and to be arbitrary or over-positive in the exposition of such Scripture is simply to set your mind against the minds of countless other scholars toward whom the impartial student must have respect. Not that we can wholly miss Paul's meaning, but that of the various shades of meaning belonging to any particular word it is not at all times possible to know just to which one the writer had reference. The Greek word is *Koinonia* and is in both versions translated "communion." It occurs in its various forms in the Septuagint

fifteen times, and in the New Testament eighty-two times. Of the New Testament mention, it is fifty-five times variously translated "communion," "fellowship," "participation," "communication," and twenty-seven times in the sense of "common" or "unclean." In three of the fifty-five instances it is the communion of a person (II Cor. 13: 14; Phil. 2: 1; I Cor. 1: 9). To these we wish to direct attention. The thought embodied in them, however, can more accurately be discovered after the following observations. The word is used in the following senses:

I. To be a partaker of a thing (I Tim. 5: 22, etc.), eleven times.

II. To be a participator in a thing (Phil. 4: 14, etc.), nine times.

In each instance there is a "with some person," understood fourteen times, expressed by the preposition "with" five times, and by "of them" once.

III. To have fellowship with a person (I Jno. 1: 3, etc.), five times; in each case there is an "in something," understood four times,

and mentioned once (Phil. 4: 15). In the first twenty (I, II) the thing in which was mentioned, and the person with whom understood; in the last five just the reverse; thus in all the twenty-five the thought is that of *Koinonia* *with* a person *in* a thing, and this same thought will, we believe, be seen to underlie every other use of the expression. II Cor. 6: 14, light (personified) having fellowship *with* darkness (personified), that is, *in* the deeds of darkness, Eph. 5: 11, fellowship, — *with* evil men or the Evil One or with darkness (personified) *in* unfruitful works.

IV. Five times it is a contribution, I Tim. 6: 18; Rom. 15: 26; 12: 13; Heb. 13: 16; I Cor. 9: 13.

V. Once it is a contributor, I Tim. 6: 18.

VI. Once it is the act of contributing, Gal. 6: 6.

In these last seven the same idea is involved, — persons and things. What is fellowship but a union or communion of possessions? There can be no real communion without a sharing of what belongs to us, whether it be

a crust of bread, the interchange of thought, of affection or sympathy.

VII. Four times it is said they had a community of things, Acts 2:44; 4:32; Tit. 1:4; Jude 3; the above applies likewise to these.

VIII. Twice it is to have a partner, II Cor. 8:23; Phile. 17.

IX. Once it is to be a partner *with* some one, Luke 5:10.

X. Twice it is to be a partner *of* some one, I Cor. 10:20; Heb. 10:33. What is the thought in these last five but sharers with each other — hence fellowship, communion — in something.

XI. Gal. 2:9, To share with them in the Gospel.

XII. I Cor. 10:18, To be a partaker of the altar, that is, of the blessing for which the altar stood, through God's sharing such blessings with them or furnishing them to them, the result of which of course is communion with God by such partaking.

XIII. Acts 2:42, Fellowship with each

other in religious sympathies, service, community of goods, etc.

XIV. Phile. 6, A difficult passage, "The faith which you have in common with the rest of us," being possibly the best of many explanations, in which case it would belong to those references of "a community of things." On any of the proposed explanations, however, it is in harmony with the general idea which we have seen to be resident in the expression, *Koinonia with some one in something*.

Now to the three passages in question. An explanation of one will suffice for all. In II Cor. 13:14, Paul invokes for them the "*communion of the Holy Spirit*." Notice it does not say with the Holy Spirit, although the force of the preposition we feel has been unduly pressed, for in I Cor. 1:9 we read that we are called into the fellowship *of* the Son, and in I John 1:3 it is said our fellowship is *with* the Son. There is a distinction, but the ideas are interdependent, and to press the "of" relation to the exclusion of the "with" relation in the passage under consideration is hardly

in keeping with impartial exegesis. Doctor Cumming ("Through the Eternal Spirit," page 185) adheres to the usually accepted meaning of communing or having fellowship with the Holy Spirit Himself. This thought of special intimacy with the Third Person of the Trinity is certainly very attractive, and is in keeping with the general tenor of Scripture. It is, however, nowhere explicitly taught, and though involved in what Paul here says, can hardly be considered the primary idea.

Now the eleven instances where "of" is used all contain the idea of "participation in," and owing to such analogy it is impossible to dispute with Meyer, Lange, Riddle, who here make the meaning "participation in the Holy Spirit," but in the eleven instances mentioned the participation is in a thing; here Paul speaks of a person, and as the preposition "of" in this clause is of precisely the same grammatical force as the "of" in the other two clauses of the verse, the grace of Christ and the love of God being the grace and love of which they are the authors, so in the third clause it seems

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proper to make the Koinonia that of which the Holy Spirit is the author, namely, the spiritual riches which He furnishes. To the above reasons we may add that as we have already seen and as all authority admits, such rendering is not in the least at variance with the linguistic usage of the word itself.

In this pregnant truth there is involved a threefold relationship which may in order be expressed as the "of" relation, the "in" relation, and the "with" relation, any one of which must by the very nature of the idea include all the others. The "of" relation, the one of chief emphasis here, refers to Koinonia as the spiritual riches communicated, that is, communications; the "in" relation refers to our participation in the things communicated, and the "with" relation to the communion (fellowship) with the Holy Spirit Himself in such participation, the whole of which of course proceeds upon the supposition of a previous participation in the Holy Spirit as the basic principle of all spiritual Koinonia.

As before mentioned, fellowship with a per-

son is impossible save through a participation in something which has become a common possession through the gift of one or the other or mutually of both, and as one thus participates, he can but have communion with the furnisher of the blessings at his disposal.

What a depth of meaning to the word when thus construed; all the inexhaustible treasures that are hid in Christ, the very fulness of God Himself to be ours through the Holy Spirit, the Great Communicator, beginning with the very life that regenerates, and ending with the glory that transfigures. There came from the press, some years ago, a strange book representing a man who had lived through a trance to a period a hundred years after it came upon him. Society had made marvelous advances, and everywhere the man turned he was met with new revelations of grandeur and glory; they were so many it took him months to comprehend them all, and oftentimes he would sit down to contemplate and to wonder at the marvelous things to which he had fallen heir. It is so with the study of the Holy Spirit.

At every step we find some new treasure, some rich experience, to which we have become heirs through the "communion of the Holy Spirit," until long before we have comprehended the half of our inheritance we are simply compelled to sit and wonder how it ever could be so. What are some of these treasures, these communications? Paul, in another place, has referred to them as "the fruit of the Spirit," and this chapter may properly be completed in another.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT.



IN the few pages immediately following will be found the results of a careful effort to count up our treasures which are hid for us in Christ and made over to us through the Communion of the Holy Spirit. To have these things in overflowing abundance is the privilege of the Spirit-filled believer. How rich that heritage is may the following summary help us to appreciate. Of these graces, these communications, all of which are the fruit of the Spirit, we find distinct mention of no less than fifty-seven.

I. In Gal. 5 : 22, Paul enumerates the following :

- (a) Love, — general inner disposition.
- (b) Joy, — because conscious of divine love.

- (c) Peace, — inner tranquillity.
- (d) Long-suffering, — patience under trial.
- (e) Kindness, — kindly disposed to others.
- (f) Goodness, — beneficence, kindness in action.
- (g) Faithfulness, — fidelity, trustworthiness.
- (h) Meekness, — mildness and submissiveness.
- (i) Temperance, — self-control.

II. Peter also has a list, faith being pre-supposed as a foundation upon which they must rest, II Peter 1 : 5-8.

- (a) Diligence, — earnest use of energies.
- (b) Virtue, — manly courageousness in conduct.
- (c) Knowledge, — recognition of the dutiful and appropriate.
- (d) Temperance, — self-control.
- (e) Patience, — perseverance in abuse and temptation.
- (f) Godliness, — reverence for God and action accordingly.
- (g) Love of brethren, — that is, of Christians.
- (h) Love for all.

This list differs in arrangement and constituents from Paul's. Paul begins with love; Peter ends with it. Paul begins with love as the spring of all other graces, because he is drawing a picture of the spiritual character in contrast to the works of the flesh. Peter is concerned here with the growth of spiritual character, and so presupposes faith as the foundation upon which, by means of these varied virtues, the superstructure is reared.

The fruit of the Spirit as mentioned elsewhere.

I. Faith.

- (a) I Cor. 12:3, "Calling Jesus Lord by the Spirit," that is, justifying, saving faith.
- (b) II Cor. 4:13, Spirit of faith, referring not so much here to justifying faith as to confidence in God in the midst of affliction.
- (c) I Cor. 12:9, Gift of faith, — a high degree of the ordinary grace, especially for miraculous manifestation; this seems to have been a gift designed especially and probably only for the early church.

II. Regeneration.

- (a) John 3:5, 6, Born of the Spirit.
- (b) Titus 3:5, Renewing by the Spirit.
Lange refers this to a continued process, and while the word in itself so means, yet in this case the thought in question and the past tense of the verb "saved" (Meyer and Riddle) best refer it to the renewing of the soul at regeneration.

III. Spiritual life. John 6:63, the originator and supplier; also Rom. 8:2. Rom. 8:6, in fulness now and of course hereafter, where it culminates in the perfect life.

IV. Self-dedication to God. I Cor. 6:11. The word "sanctify" is in the middle voice, and not the passive, as the Revised Version makes it, and denotes properly the setting apart of oneself as holy unto God.

V. Sanctification.

- (a) I Cor. 6:11, Washed by the Spirit; the verb is middle and hence indicates our own effort united with that of the Spirit.
- (b) I Cor. 6:11, Made righteous by the Spirit; this seems a solitary use of

this verb in this sense; it is the verb's simplest sense. Most retain the usual sense of "declare just," but the order hardly permits this. (See Meyer.)

- (c) I Peter 1:2, and II Thes. 2:13, In the sanctification of the Spirit. Whether this word denotes the process or the result of the Spirit's working, it is in either case a fruit of the Spirit. It is the sphere in which our election and choice to salvation is realized.
- (d) II Cor. 3:18, Growth into the Christ image.
- (e) Rom. 14:17, Righteousness, that is, inner, Meyer, Godet; Lange, Hodge, Moule say imputed. The former is favored by the context, by the practical nature of the discourse, and by verses 16, 18, 19, and also by the primary meaning of the word. Paul's general usage favors the second view. See also Rom. 8:4.
- (f) Rom. 15:16, Sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

VI. Victory over sin.

- (a) Gal. 5:17; also Rom. 8:2, if this refers to sanctification, which we are

inclined to believe, though Doctor Hodge opposes such reference.

- (b) Rom. 8: 13, Mortifying the deeds of the body through the Spirit.

VII. New power for spiritual conflict. Eph. 6: 10.

VIII. Likeness to Christ. Eph. 3: 19, "filled with all the fulness of God" which is contained in Christ (Col. 1: 19, and 2: 9). Though not called a fruit of the Spirit, one cannot analyze the prayer in Eph. 3: 16-19 without seeing that such is the evident result of being strengthened through the Spirit. As Christ in Col. 1: 19 is said to contain all the *pleroma* of God, so here such is the prayer for us, the *pleroma* being that with which God is filled, — the divine perfections; and notice he says *all* the *pleroma*, — His love, His knowledge, His power, His goodness, His holiness, etc.

IX. Knowledge of divine truth. I Cor. 2: 10, 14.

- (a) Eph. 1: 17, "Wisdom" here refers to a general continued condition of illumination and "revelation," to an

advance on wisdom, that is, the more special gift of insight.

- (b) John 16: 13, "Into all truth," — full knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ; the whole truth of God.
- (c) John 14: 26, "Teach all things," referring to a right and complete understanding of the truth as it is in Christ.
- (d) I Cor. 2: 15, "All things," — pre-eminently the deep things of God, verse 10, with a probable secondary reference to the affairs of life, that is, judgment and discretion in daily duty, etc.

The following seems to have been limited to special agents, — Apostolic.

- (a) John 16: 13, "Things to come," referring not alone to eschatological revelations, but to the whole career of the church militant after the Spirit's coming. The destiny of the church.
- (b) Eph. 3: 3, 5, The purpose of God as it is in Christ with a probable primal reference to the inclusion of the Gentiles.
- (c) I Peter 1: 11, 12, Christ in them as the Revealer.

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Examples — Acts 11:28, Agabus prophesying.

Acts 13:2, Told to appoint to office; same idea in 20:28.

Acts 20:23, Revealed coming afflictions to Paul.

Acts 21:4, Revealed coming afflictions to disciples.

Acts 21:11, Revealed coming afflictions to Agabus.

X. Assurance of Sonship. Gal. 4:6, — here the Holy Spirit cries; Rom. 8:15, — here the human spirit cries; the idea is the same, because, as Meyer says, "The Spirit is so completely the author of the Abba invocation that the man who invokes appears only as the organ of the Spirit." Here also belong Rom. 8:16; Eph. 1:13; 4:30; II Cor. 1:21, 22.

XI. Led by the Spirit. Gal. 5:18; also Rom. 8:14, 1, 4.

(a) Gal. 5:16, Walking about in the midst of daily duties.

(b) Gal. 5:25, A careful, studied walk, being the use of a different verb from 5:16.

- (c) Inward intimation, Acts 8:29; 11:12; 13:4; also Acts 16:6, 7.

Some, Cumming ("Through the Eternal Spirit," page 196), notice a shade of meaning between the "forbid" of vs. 6 and the "suffer not" of vs. 7, the latter leading of the Spirit not being so clear; the first would not allow them, the second simply gave no permission.

- (d) Acts 19:21, Purposed in the Spirit, — the Holy Spirit, Gloag, Cumming; his own spirit, Meyer, Riddle, Hacket, R. V. Even in the latter case it would be under the impulse of the Holy Spirit.
- (e) Acts 16:9, Led by a vision — the call to Macedonia, 23:11, — the visit to Rome confirmed; Acts 10, Led up to pray, that is, given a vision and told to go.
- (f) II Cor. 12:18, Guided by the Spirit. Simeon led by the Spirit, Lu. 2:27. Jesus, Lu. 4:1, "led." The Holy Spirit, His ruling and guiding principle, induced Him to go, acting on His soul for that purpose; (en, with the dative). Matt. 4:1, "Led up," — the external idea more emphasized. Actual guidance (hupo, with the genitive). Mk. 1:12, "Driv-

eth," — cast out; the sense of urgency, compulsion. "Not that Jesus resisted but that His pure soul abhorred the personal contact with the Evil One."

XII. Power for service.

- (a) II Tim. 1:7, Power in general, with a possible particular reference to courageousness.
- (b) I Peter 1:12; I Thes. 1:5; I Cor. 2:4, Power in preaching.
- (c) Acts 1:8, Power in witnessing, referring here to every needed qualification — equipment in general.

XIII. Confidence and assurance in preaching. I Thes. 1:5 (Meyer and Lange). This is the preferred interpretation rather than that the hearers receive the Gospel with assurance, as Riddle and others say.

XIV. Calls, appoints, and qualifies for office, Acts 20:28.

XV. Love of the brethren. Rom. 15:30; II Cor. 6:6; Col. 1:8, and II Tim. 1:7. In this last reference Meyer, Olshausen, Bengel, Smeaton, and Cumming say the reference is to the Holy Spirit; however we look at the pas-

sage, it virtually amounts to this, for such a spirit we could not receive save through the Holy Spirit imparted to us who Himself has these characteristics.

XVI. Gives consciousness of God's love. Rom. 5:5; Cumming's idea of the Spirit loving us is certainly beautiful and legitimate; it does not rest so much on exegetical ground as in that it must be really so. The Spirit cannot produce love in us unless He Himself is loving and loves. This is true of all the fruit of the Spirit.

XVII. A comprehension and appreciation of Christ's love. Eph. 3:18, 19.

XVIII. Peace, — peace in general; peace with God, with man, and inner peace; also Rom. 8:6. Gal. 5:22 refers to inner peace solely.

XIX. Holy joy. Acts 13:52; Rom. 14:

(a) Eph. 5:19, A heart of melody.

(b) I Thes. 1:6, Joy in affliction.

Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit; so rendered by the best MSS.

XX. Hope. Rome. 15:13.

XXI. Meekness. Gal. 6:1 and I Cor.

4:21. Meyer, Hodge, and Smeaton read here the Holy Spirit, while Riddle, Ellicott, Alford, Lange, Lightfoot, and others say it is best to read "spirit of meekness," referring to the human spirit, so read the authorized and revised versions, and this is the more probable, although Meyer and Hodge say — and there is strength in the assertion — that when spirit is used with an abstract noun in the genitive it always means Holy Spirit, as Spirit of truth, John 15:26; 16:13; I John 4:6; of adoption, Rom. 8:15; of faith, II Cor. 4:13; of wisdom, Eph. 1:17; of power, II Tim. 1:7.

XXII. Comfort. Acts 9:31, — Meyer, Alford, Lange, Gloag, Riddle make the word mean exhortation; Hackett renders it "aid," referring it either to consolatory exhortation by the disciples inspired by the Spirit, or the people being moved by the Spirit's inward exhortation; but the idea of comfort is in the word, and is so used in the New Testament, John 14:16, 17, and to be so rendered suits well the context, — the circumstance of the church; so also Cumming, page 170.

XXIII. Liberty. II Cor. 3:17, The liberty which comes from a change of state and relationship, such as pertains to justification.

XXIV. Thanksgiving for all things. Eph. 5:20.

XXV. A submissive heart. Eph. 5:21; Phil. 2:3.

(a) Wives submitting to husbands, Eph. 5:22.

(b) Husbands loving wives, 5:25.

(c) Children obeying fathers, 6:1.

(d) Fathers not provoking children, 6:4.

(e) Servants obeying masters, 6:5.

(f) Masters forbearing toward servants, 6:9.

XXVI. Aid in trouble. Phil. 1:19, especially in Paul's case, comfort and courage.

XXVII. Unity.

(a) Eph. 2:22, For the sake of strength.

(b) Eph. 4:3, In the church and among individuals.

XXVIII. Access to God. Eph. 2:18, that is, led up to God by the Spirit.

XXIX. Aid in prayer.

- (a) Jude 20 and Rom. 8:26, The Holy Spirit discovers to us our poverty and the value of spiritual things, promotes the substance of all true prayer and incites to true faith.
- (b) Eph. 6:18, Personal prayer and intercession; it will not do with Cummington ("Through the Eternal Spirit," page 240), to say that intercession is here the special thing. See also Eph. 2:18; and if prayer is implied in Gal. 4:6, and Rom. 8:26, these passages also belong here.

XXX. Worship by the Spirit. Phil. 3:3. He prompts, animates, and directs it; singing, praying, and all forms of worship are included, though Paul significantly chose the word used to describe Jewish worship by ritual and ceremony; even in these outward forms the Spirit was to be recognized.

XXXI. Communion. II Cor. 13:14. Though the thought of fellowship in the sense of communion with the Holy Spirit is not the primary one, such thought is necessarily involved in the word. See preceding chapter. Here also belong Phil. 2:1.

XXXII. Discipline. II Tim. 1:7. The word implies more than self-control, having an active signification, and describes a quality calculated to bring others to soberness and soundness of mind.

XXXIII. Faithfulness in duty. II Tim. 1:14, Guarding one's trust; probably in Timothy's case the Gospel and his ministry.

XXXIV. II Cor. 6:6. Just what relation "by (en) the Holy Spirit" bears to the rest of the discourse is uncertain; not in so many words is it said those graces are fruits of the Spirit, but if Paul here introduces the Spirit as the source of them, then we have a list of fruits as follows:

- (a) Patience.
- (b) Pureness, — both moral sincerity and chastity.
- (c) Knowledge, — evangelical, that is, of God's moral will.
- (d) Kindness.
- (e) Love of the brethren.

XXXV. Patient waiting for future redemption. Gal. 5:5.

XXXVI. First fruits of the Spirit. Rom. 8:23. Olshausen, DeWette, and Meyer refer this to the early Christians receiving the Spirit in contrast to all Christians receiving Him now and later, that is, a partitive genitive being used. Riddle says what we now possess is but first fruits of what we shall receive in glory; also partitive genitive. Hodge, Godet, and Lange say the Holy Spirit is the "first fruits," as in Eph. 1:14, an earnest of what we shall be: appositional genitive. The second and third views are exactly alike in consequence, and, as the word "first fruits" is always used with a partitive genitive, we prefer Riddle's view.

XXXVII. Redemption of the body at the resurrection. Rom. 8:11. Jesus so raised, Rom. 8:11; also I Peter 3:18, according to Smeaton, Cumming, and the authorized version, but strongly opposed by Meyer, Riddle, and the revised version.

XXXVIII. Eternal life in glory. Gal. 6:8. Meyer would put Rom. 8:6 here also, but the reference is hardly to be so limited,

referring the rather to eternal life, — spiritual here, and consequently hereafter of course.

XXXIX. Inspiration. II Peter 1:21, The word is “borne on,” — the figure of a ship before the wind.

XL. Christ was justified in the Spirit. I Tim. 3:16.

- (a) In His miracles. (b) In His spotless life. (c) In His resurrection.
- (a) Our justification by the Spirit is seen by Hodge, Lange, and Alford in I Cor. 6:11, but, as noted above, it has seemed preferable to take the word as Meyer does in its sense of sanctification.
- (b) Rom. 14:17, The above three authorities take righteousness in this verse also in the sense of justification, though neither of them connect it with “in the Spirit”; this last phrase, however, is better connected with all three of the preceding words and “righteousness” taken in the sense of holiness (Meyer and Godet).

XLI. I Cor. 12:8, 9, 10, These we are inclined to believe are apostolic.

CHAPTER IX.

THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT.



THE word baptism in connection with the name of the Holy Spirit is mentioned seven times in the New Testament, Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33, each referring to John's testimony that the Coming One was to baptize with the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:5, the risen Christ promises it; in Acts 11:16, Peter quotes the promise as having been fulfilled in the case of Cornelius, and in I Cor. 12:13, we are said to be baptized "en" one spirit into one body. The preposition following the word baptize is in each case "en" save once, Mark 1:8, where it is omitted, the Holy Spirit, however, in each instance being in the same grammatical form, — dative, variously translated in, with, and by. With Pentecost came the fulfilment of

the promised baptism. These disciples we know were:

1. Baptized with the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:5.
2. Endued, clothed upon, — Revised Version, — with power from on high, Lu. 24:49.
3. Filled with the Spirit, Acts 2:4, "Pletho," same word used in John 19:29.

In their case at least the words, "baptism," "enduement," "filling," referred to one and the same experience. This experience was accompanied by certain miraculous manifestations, "sound as of rushing wind," "tongues of fire," and followed by certain miraculous results, such as "speaking in foreign tongues."

This was fitting, first, as the inaugural of a new dispensation; second, because the disciples were in need of the miraculous — how very much one can easily imagine. We are to bear in mind that the miracles were the *accompaniments* and the *results* of the baptism.

The chief purpose of this baptism was qualification for the best possible service.

The results in case of the disciples were:

- (a) Miraculous powers, Acts 2:4.
- (b) Witnessing. (1) With boldness, Acts 2:4. (2) With power, Acts 1:8; 2:41; and no doubt to each of them was given other gifts not then recorded, Acts 19:6; 1 Cor. 12:1, 12.

Was this baptism their regeneration, or were the disciples regenerated men before Pentecost? Rev. G. Campbell Morgan takes the former view ("The Spirit of God," pages 132 and 174). Even were his conception true it would by no means be a necessary deduction therefrom that regeneration was the thing of chief import at Pentecost. We are forced to feel that Dr. Morgan has emphasized the wrong thing. Certainly a believer after Pentecost would be a broader visioned and deeper experienced individual than one before. He would in some respects be a new man. Christ means immeasurably more to the Christian of to-day than He could possibly mean to the disciples in the period of His incarnation. Regeneration is by an almost unanimous opinion considered

to be an act resulting in the instantaneous change from spiritual death to spiritual life. Its metaphysical nature must forever remain a mystery, and before thinking of the disciples as unregenerated one must rather thoroughly understand the nature of this mysterious and divinely inwrought work, and rather thoroughly appreciate the scope of the change resulting therefrom. Says Andrew Murray (page 323), "To the disciples the Baptism of the Spirit was very distinctly not His first bestowal for regeneration, but the definite communication of the Presence in power of their glorified Lord."

Certainly the disciples had received the Holy Spirit before Pentecost; if not, how interpret John 20:22? "He breathed on them and said receive ye the Holy Spirit." This Dr. Morgan calls a "prophetic breathing," a "typical act" (page 108), and Dr. Cumming also concurs in this, saying the disciples here received nothing. But, first, the aorist imperative of the verb "receive" argues against such a conception; second, the thought embodied in the verb "send" argues against it; third, the act of breathing

is against it; (Same verb used in Gen. 2:7.) fourth, if nothing were received it would be only a repetition of the Saviour's promise in his farewell discourse.

Some argue the omission of the article before the Holy Spirit, making it refer not to the personal Holy Spirit, but to His influence only, but such omission is of little or no import. Entirely too much stress has been laid upon every slight variation of expression. Seemingly unmindful that under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the writer was not a machine, there have always been critics who could see the hand of several writers in one treatise, or build an inverted pyramid of manuscript in defense of a theory resting upon the slightest grammatical deviation from the author's established style. (For a most excellent exposition on the use of the article in the New Testament see Cumming, "Through the Eternal Spirit," page 281.) Scofield says, "They first received the Holy Spirit here" ("Plain Papers on the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit," page 35). With Bengel, Calvin, Olshausen, Stier, Alford, Godet, Meyer,

and others, we see in the passage in question an impartation of the Holy Spirit, not so full and complete as at Pentecost, but quantitative at least, an impartation already to regenerate men, or at least an impartation which effected that regeneration. (See Swete in Hastings' "Dictionary of the Bible" — article on "Holy Spirit.") In Kuyper's recent studied work on the Holy Spirit, he gives a threefold relation of the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

(1) Regeneration and subsequent illumination, Matt. 16: 17.

(2) Reception as official gift qualifying them for apostolic office, John 20: 22.

(3) Pentecost.

Torrey ("Baptism of the Holy Spirit," page 6) refers to John 13: 10; 15: 3, "ye are clean," as witnessing the disciples' regeneration. With him is nearly all critical authority. Cumming (page 98), speaking of the disciples at Pentecost, says, "They were new men, not in the sense of being born again, for assuredly they had all known that change before."

We repeat, however, that even were this sub-

jective change first wrought at Pentecost, this would in no way militate against the fact that *the distinctive feature of that occasion was not regeneration, but enduement for service.* We must confess that the startling thing about Dr. Morgan's book, "The Spirit of God," is the bold manœuvre in exegesis by which he undertakes to substantiate the claim he has made. We have looked for his authority and have failed to find it. It is always inspiring to see a man who dares to differ from centuries of authority. However, in coming to safe views of Scriptural truths, we must have respect to what others have thought before us. In the attempt to establish a theory all men are susceptible to bias, and the comforting thing to the student in the critical exegesis of Scripture upon the subject is that he is coming in contact with the opinions of scholars who, for the most part, and certainly so far as this subject is concerned, were seeking to establish no theory, but searching from an independent view-point what things the Scripture really said.

Dr. Morgan, in support of his view, has sur-

prisingly quoted a great number of baptismal passages in the New Testament as referring to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He quotes Rom. 6: 3, 4. We have not found it possible to agree with such an interpretation of this passage. It is not the purpose of these pages to be controversial, nor will their limits admit of extended argument, but in consideration of what has just been said of exegetical opinion, it is desired simply to say that the reverend scholar's position is taken in the face of overwhelming authority, if such a thing there can be. This passage in Romans is taken to mean "water baptism," by Bengel, Calvin, Tholuck, Ruckert, Lightfoot, Lange, Meyer, Barnes, Stuart, Shedd, Schaff, Conybeare and Howson, Webster and Wilkinson, Hodge, Ellicott, Alford, Stier, Dwight, Riddle, Godet, and Moule in his recent volume, Marvin R. Vincent in his "Word Studies" (just published), *and all others consulted.*

"Baptism into" means baptism *in reference to*, and the phrase in no way teaches baptismal regeneration. As clear-viewed Calvin said,

“We ought in baptism to recognize a spiritual law; we ought in it to embrace a witness to the remission of sins and a pledge of our renewal, and yet so to leave both to Christ and the Holy Spirit the honor that is theirs as that no part of the salvation be transferred to the sign.”

Gal. 3: 27, I Peter 3: 21, and Eph. 4: 5, are other passages quoted in face of the same array of authority. In Matt. 28: 19, among the last words of Jesus was the command to the disciples that they should “teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In Mark 16: 16, among His last words, are, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” This last Dr. Morgan calls the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (“Spirit of God,” page 118); the passage in Matthew cannot, of course, be so construed, and what worthy reasons exist for considering the passage in Mark any different does not appear.

Scofield says (“Plain Papers on the Doctrine of the Spirit,” page 41) that from Pentecost to the case of Cornelius, — Acts 10, open-

ing the door to the Gentiles,—two peculiarities mark the impartation of the Spirit to believers, one of which was that “commonly an interval of time elapsed between the receiving of Christ by faith and the baptism of the Spirit.” Beginning with chapter ten, he says the baptism came at the moment of regeneration. This is true in the case of Cornelius (Acts 10: 44 and 11: 15), but was it the same kind of Baptism that came at Pentecost? If so, then although it came practically simultaneous with regeneration, it must have been something different from regeneration, and conditioned by it. That the baptism in chapter ten was the same as that which the disciples and all others since Pentecost had received, is evidenced by the miraculous gifts which came with it, and by Peter’s account of it in the next chapter.

What has thus far been said has been offered in the defence of the view that the disciples at Pentecost were not necessarily unregenerate, and more particularly that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit they and all others (recorded) received, was *not* identical with regeneration.

We now come to what has been our common error — the old failure of definition; Scofield (“Plain Papers on the Doctrine of the Spirit,” page 42), beginning with Acts 10 as a starting-point (where, as we have seen, mention is made of a Baptism of the Holy Spirit identical with that of Pentecost), seeks to establish the fact that all believers are now, and have been from that time, Acts 10, regenerated and baptized by the Spirit at one and the same time, and adduces in defence of such position the exceeding difficult passage in I Cor. 12: 13. This passage Morgan (“Spirit of God,” page 174) also quotes as proof that regeneration and Spirit Baptism are identical. If I Cor. 12: 13 refers to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, it *is* identical with regeneration, but do we not at once see that as such it is an altogether different kind of baptism from that of the Holy Spirit in Acts 10, or any time previous; in other words, if this baptism in I Cor. 12: 13 is that of the Spirit, it is different from every other experience in the Word of God bearing that name.

Granting now for the moment that the word "baptism" in I Cor. 12:13 has no reference to water, but refers solely to the regenerative work of the Spirit, we would have, in view of the above discussion and the present concession:

(1) A Baptism of the Holy Spirit beginning at Pentecost (and ending, so far as the name is concerned, at Acts 10), "differing from regeneration, and either subsequent to regeneration or practically simultaneous with it (Acts 10) though conditioned by it." This baptism was a special enduement or filling of the Holy Spirit for service.

(2) A Baptism of the Holy Spirit simultaneous and *identical* with regeneration, a spiritual baptismal regeneration, which belongs not only to every believer since Acts 10, but has occurred in the case of every individual ever regenerated. Not every treatise has made this distinction clear. It is in fact the distinction noted by Cumming (page 117), between Christ baptizing men with the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit baptizing men into Christ. The

first might properly be called the Baptism *with* the Holy Spirit, and the second the Baptism *of* the Holy Spirit. The first is Christ's baptism; the second is the Spirit's baptism. The Baptism *of* the Holy Spirit is therefore, properly speaking, the same as regeneration, whatever may be the interpretation given to I Cor. 12:13, and even though there be in the Scripture no specific mention of it in the exact phraseology we are using. In speaking, therefore, of the post-regenerative experience *under discussion*, the reader will note that through the remainder of these remarks the expression "Baptism *with* the Holy Spirit" is used. Now concerning I Cor. 12:13, "For with one Spirit we were all baptized into one body." The Revised Version reads "in one Spirit," but as it is the same preposition as is used in every other case, we see no reason for reading other than "with" (as expressive of the agent) in this instance, especially if it means baptism in the sense above granted.

Does it refer to water baptism or to the regenerative impartation of the Holy Spirit?

The question is a difficult one, and no man can decide it, and, as the translator of Kling has said, "It will continue to be determined in accordance with the feeling and original preferences of different individuals." Authority, which preponderates in favor of the first, is divided, so far as we have discovered, as follows: For water baptism, Bengel, Meyer, Alford, DeWette, Kling, Ruckert, Luther, Beza, Calvin, Henry, Scott, Cumming, Vincent. For the regenerative baptism of the Holy Ghost apart altogether from water baptism, Hodge, Chapman, Scofield, Morgan, MacNeil.

In Gal. 3 : 27 and Eph. 4 : 5, where the reference as we have taken it is to water baptism, Paul says we are "baptized into Christ," and here he says, "we are baptized into Christ 'en' the Holy Spirit," and as it is not plain that he anywhere else speaks of the regenerative act as a baptism it would seem the part of consistent exegesis to see a reference to water baptism here.

This baptism is then either "in" the Holy Spirit as the element into which the baptized

have been transferred, and in which they are ever after expected to live (the E. R. V. rendering seems to favor this, as in every other instance where the same preposition is used "with" is given as the preferred meaning); or it is "with" or "by" the Holy Spirit in the sense that the Holy Spirit is the agent of the faith which is the necessary accompaniment of every baptism into Christ. This is the explanation of Cumming ("Through the Eternal Spirit," page 117).

Impossible to come to an unquestioned decision, we must content ourselves with a preference. That preference is for the explanation of Cumming. In the word "baptism," therefore, in this verse, is to be found an immediate reference to water baptism. This brings the conclusion that as a regenerative act the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is nowhere mentioned in the Scripture. Hodge says, "Any communication of the Spirit may be called a baptism whether in His regenerating, sanctifying, or inspiring influences." This is true, but His regenerating influence is not so called in Scrip-

ture, and what we must in our now current discussions avoid is a confusion of terms.

The Holy Spirit does baptizé us into Christ, whether so mentioned in Scripture or not, but this experience in reality is prior to that of which Paul speaks in I Cor. 12:13, inasmuch as when a man comes to the baptismal place he is supposed to be already a regenerated individual; he is then on the ground of his faith, previously produced by the Holy Spirit, baptized into, that is, in respect to Christ. The other view, which must also be worthily considered, maintains that Paul here has no reference to water, and speaks solely of the regenerative baptism by the Holy Spirit into Christ, which, of course, is experienced by every one who believes.

Our discussion has so far thus resolved itself: 1. Every believer has had one Baptism *of the Spirit* (regenerative), whether the particular phraseology be so used in Scripture or not. 2. If I Cor. 12:13 refers immediately to regeneration, there is at least *one* express

mention of this baptism in the Word. 3. To the Apostles and early Christians was granted a Baptism *with* the Spirit (post-regenerative), filling them with power and preparing them for every emergency in Christian experience.

Now comes the other question, Is there such a thing as Christ baptizing men *with* the Holy Spirit to-day? May we be baptized as were the Apostles? As far as the phrasing of that experience is concerned, it nowhere in Scripture says we may; but it is the writer's opinion, based upon his own experience, that many an anxious one has been led into confusion about this most important matter by expressions of different writers, seemingly antagonistic because of an indiscriminating use of terms or a lack of explanation as to the exact meaning involved. For example, note the following:

(1) "The believer may ask and expect what may be termed a Baptism of the Spirit." Murray, "Spirit of Christ," page 323.

(2) "The Baptism is not like the filling

presented to us as a blessing for which the Christian is to seek." Moule, "Veni Creator," page 222.

(3) "Neither is there any gift He is more willing to bestow upon believers than this Divine Baptism." Mahan, "Baptism of the Holy Ghost," pages 48 and 49.

(4) "It is not right that Christian people should profess to be waiting for the Baptism of the Spirit." Morgan, "The Spirit of God," page 176.

(5) "The Baptism of the Spirit is the beginning of the full life of Christian experience." Cumming, "Through the Eternal Spirit," page 119.

(6) "It is unscriptural for the Christian to be talking about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost." Chapman, "Received Ye the Holy Ghost," page 75.

(7) "It surely cannot be unscriptural for a believer to pray, Lord Jesus baptize me with the Holy Spirit." MacNeil, "Spirit-filled Life," page 38.

(8) "It does not follow that every believer has received this Baptism of the Spirit." Gordon, "The Ministry of the Spirit," page 75. He goes on to show they may.

(9) "And she (a Christian woman) received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost inside of ten minutes." Torrey, "Baptism with the Holy Ghost," page 19.

The experience which we are discussing is of vital importance to every believer, and, anxious to know that he may have a thoughtful appreciation of the thing he is told to seek, is it any wonder he finds himself somewhat bewildered in the presence of so many statements, some actually conflicting, others apparently so, though a different experience is being described by the same name. Is there a "Baptism with the Holy Spirit" for the believer to-day? We have already said that in this particular phraseology, Scripture does not say there is; but may we have the experience belonging to it? Paul said in Eph. 5: 18, "Be filled with the Spirit." Before attempting an answer to the above

question, let us endeavor to see something of what Paul meant by the experience to which he exhorts us in the words, "Be filled with the Spirit."

CHAPTER X.

THE FILLING OF THE SPIRIT.



IN the chapter on the advent of the Spirit were noted three distinct periods of the Spirit's presence and operation. In each of these men were filled with the Spirit:

I. In the Old Testament, Bezaleel, Ex. 28:3; 31:3; 35:31. See also Deut. 34:9. Eight times in the Old Testament the Spirit is said to be in men, twenty-seven times upon men, and three times to be clothed with men. These different expressions make no difference in the resulting experience.

II. From the Incarnation to Pentecost, John the Baptist, Luke 1:15; Elizabeth, Luke 1:41; Zacharias, Luke 1:67. In all these instances the same Greek word, "pletho" (to

fill), or its Hebrew equivalent, "male," as in the case of Bezaleel, is used, and in each case, according to the Spirit's economy prior to Pentecost, was the equipment of a special individual to do a special work.

III. Pentecost and after. At Pentecost the disciples were baptized, Acts 1:5, endued with power, Luke 24:49, and filled, Acts 2:4, all in one and the same experience. This filling was accompanied by miraculous signs and followed by miraculous effects, but there was nothing miraculous about the filling itself. The writer means in this sense — for instance, supposing Paul's regeneration to have occurred on his way to Damascus, there was nothing more miraculous about it than about yours or mine, — the miracle (the blazing light, etc.) was the accompaniment. These spiritual processes or acts are always in a sense miraculous, but the actual filling and the actual regenerating were according to the regular method of operation, and if there is such an experience for the believer to-day, it will be the same kind of filling, given by the same method which the

disciples received, by whatever name it may be called.

In Acts 4:8, Peter was filled again, and again, with all the disciples, in 4:31. Paul was filled in Acts 9:17, and once more in 13:9. We now call attention to the fact that Stephen in Acts 6:5 and 7:5, and Barnabas in Acts 11:24, are said to be men "full of the Holy Spirit," the adjective (*πληρης*) being used, whereas, in the above-noted fillings, when used as a qualifying clause, the past participle (*πληθεις*) is employed as designative of something definitely done. Some have accordingly found a distinction here which to a certain extent is a worthy one, though it sounds very strange to speak of a difference between being "full of the Spirit" and being "filled with the Spirit." The first refers more properly to the habitual fulness of the Spirit as a somewhat permanent state of the soul; the second to occasional experiences for special purposes.

We remark, (1) It is not difficult to conceive of the distinction. We speak of a man well known for his godliness and spiritual

power as being full of the Holy Spirit, without implying that he is filled to the utmost reach of his capacity for fulness as may be needful for him on some particular occasion. Peter was filled more than once, and certainly after Pentecost he was, even as Barnabas and Stephen, a man "full of the Holy Spirit," though this particular expression is nowhere used of him in Scripture. And may we not think of Barnabas and Stephen, men *full of the Spirit*, Acts 11:24; 6:5; 7:55, being on some special occasion *filled with the Spirit* for some special purpose? Says F. B. Meyer ("A Castaway," page 100), "You may be a man full of the Holy Ghost in your family, but, before entering your pulpit, be sure that you are especially equipped by a new reception of the Holy Ghost." The filling then with this distinction in mind would correspond more nearly to what most people understand as the anointing—the special equipment for a special purpose. Such was Acts 2:4; 4:8; 13:9, etc., while the fulness would find its reference to the more ordinary condition of

every godly character — to what Cumming calls (page 230) “the habit of the soul.”

(2) The distinction, if accepted, we are inclined to think is one altogether of degree; the occasional filling being simply an increased supply of the same power already in possession, such as the exigency of the occasion demands. It presupposes the need with which it comes and with which it departs; it presupposes, of course, the fulness as the more habitual possession, and is received upon exactly the same conditions with it.

What, then, was this experience which came to the disciples when in fulfilment of the promise that they should “be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence,” it is said in Scripture, Acts 2:4, “They were all filled with the Holy Spirit?” What happened to the disciples when thus filled? It is not the name of an experience we are trying to establish, but its nature we would so far as possible understand. Have we not gone to unwarranted lengths in seeking to establish a difference in import in the meaning of “in,”

“with,” and “by,” and various other modes of expression by which in Scripture it is evidently desired to convey the same thought? In the case of the household of Cornelius, Peter describes the one experience by “poured out,” “fell upon,” “received,” “baptized,” and “gave,” and then said it was like Pentecost, which, therefore, was also an “endowment” and a “filling.”

But when the disciples were filled at Pentecost, what we do know is that the Holy Spirit, as a divine personal Presence, so wrought upon or exercised Himself within them, or so influenced them, that the inner subjective change resultant therefrom fitted them for service, and, of course, for holy living also, although note this last is never mentioned as a result of the filling received by the Apostles. The Holy Spirit then for the first time manifested Himself in fulness in the men of God, and filled them for the particular service of the hour; had it been some great spiritual conflict through which they were to pass, the filling which they received would have been appropriate and

adequate to that; had it been to endure martyrdom or suffer otherwise, the filling would have been given for that, for although the occasion made equipment for service the prominent need, it is not our thought that the filling of the Spirit is to be thus limited.

Now when Paul tells us in Eph. 5:18 to "Be filled with the Spirit," it is doubtless with more immediate reference to that habitual fulness which ought to characterize the life of every believer. What he meant was "Live the Spirit-filled life." But if the Spirit-filled life is held before us as a possible attainment, certainly the special filling needful at crisis moments in Christian experience, which, after all, though the above distinction be thoroughly appreciated, is the more ordinary fulness carried up to its highest manifestation, will not be denied us if in the time of need we put ourselves in a condition to receive it, and what other could the Pentecostal experience and the special fillings that came to the disciples be than a *high degree* of the same power which is necessarily associated with that fulness of

the Spirit (Eph. 5:18) which is the normal or healthy condition of soul, and which ought to characterize the life of every believer.

It is an experience wrought upon our very inmost self. Its metaphysical nature is beyond finite comprehension. It is God Himself in the Presence and Person of His Holy Spirit entering into the throne-room of a believer's being, ruling there with power for the perfection of life, and commanding for the advancement of His Kingdom the now divinely energized faculties of a God-possessed and God-empowered soul.

In view of this it certainly will not be missing the truth if it is said with Cumming ("Through the Eternal Spirit," page 114) that for the Christian of to-day, "in addition to the gift of the Spirit received at conversion, there is another blessing corresponding in its sign and effects to the blessing received by the Apostles at Pentecost," or with Boardman ("In the Power of the Spirit," page 2) that "All of every age who have shown by their fruits that they have had the apostolic endue-

ment of spiritual power, came into it by an experimental reception of the Holy Spirit not essentially different from that of the Apostles and evangelists."

If this filling received by the disciple to-day is not essentially different from the experience accorded to the early disciples, by what name shall we call it? As learned Dr. Hodge has reminded us, any impartation of the Holy Spirit is a baptism, and certainly, apart from Biblical phraseology, a filling with the Spirit may be called a baptism with the Spirit. Again, since a not essentially different experience in the case of the Disciples is called a baptism, would it not seem to be of Scriptural warrant, to call this filling also a baptism? But since Scripture does not use the term baptism, in the sense in which we are now speaking, when referring to this experience, in that portion of God's Word especially designed for the saints of this day, — the Epistles, — but does exhort the Christian to be filled with the Spirit, many have argued, especially since there is a question in the minds of some as to the similarity of

these experiences, that it would be best to adhere, in present-day terminology, to the word "filling"; but if the use of such a term is calculated to magnify a difference which does not exist, such a distinction in choice of words had better be abandoned. What is there, therefore, but to conclude with Andrew Murray ("Spirit of Christ," page 23), that the believer may come into an experience of "*what may be termed* a baptism with the Holy Spirit."

Possible objections to the above conclusion:

1. It has been objected that the word baptism is not used in this connection with reference to believers in any of the Epistles. It is true the New Testament writers were very choice in their use of words, but this very fact cripples the objection, since Luke has made use of so many different expressions to describe the one experience under consideration. Since, also, the term "filling" is used interchangeably with "baptism" in the Acts, and the mere fact that this was an experience for the disciples, is no reason in itself why it may not be ours,

and since, after all, the point of discussion is an *experience* and not a *word*, the above objection is of insufficient force for any invalidation of the position we have assumed.

2. It has been objected that a feature of the early baptism with the Spirit was the miraculous. The miraculous was not, however, essential to the thing itself; it was the accompaniment and a method of manifestation according to the economy of that day. If it is the miraculous that determines the experience, then it is heartily conceded that there is no baptism for the believer to-day, but a filling differing from the baptism in this particular. But the miraculous does not belong to the nature of the filling, and with no difference in the experience that comes to a Spirit-filled man to-day, God could, if He chose, use him in setting the miraculous before the world, the subjective condition of the man being in no wise different from that which characterized the saints of earlier days.

That the filling is not accompanied by miraculous manifestations to-day is true; that it is

not followed by them is also true. Some of our recognized teachers upon this subject have affirmed the opposite concerning the miraculous results of this experience; they claim to have witnessed such results. Possibly they have failed in close discrimination between the miraculous and the working of natural law.

Neither their conviction nor their veracity is called in question, but the writer finds himself simply unable to believe it; he does believe the prayer of faith shall save the sick; he does believe in the physiological effect of faith and in the power of mental states over physical conditions; but when a man, Spirit-filled though he be, goes with me to the side of a mutilated, flesh-corroded leper, or any person suffering with an organic ailment, and lifts him at once into the vigor of health, he will find another ardent believer of the genuinely miraculous result of the experience under consideration.

Bishop Taylor, according to Rev. Mr. Godbey, tells of a young lady, who, in three months, preached fluently to a nation of whose language

she had been utterly ignorant. This Mr. Godbey calls the "Gift of Tongues." A Spirit-filled person can learn a great deal in three months by hard work, but the disciples spoke not only in one, but in many tongues in less time than that. That such miraculous power did attend the gift of the Holy Spirit in the early church, Paul's letters render plain, I Cor. 12: 1-12. Whether the church has lost them through her unfaithfulness, or whether, which is more probable, as Dr. Meyer suggests, "special gifts being given for special purposes, they are now withdrawn," is a question without a place in the purpose of this discussion.

3. It has been objected that the filling enjoined by Paul in Eph. 5: 18 had for its chief aim the development of character, while that of apostolic times was always connected with service. But in recording the growth of the church, service would naturally be the point of emphasis, though certainly a holy character must have been presupposed; while Paul in his thought for the Ephesian Christians would naturally emphasize that which is the founda-

tion of all service. Luke was writing *of* the church; Paul was writing *to* the church; the purpose and consequent nature of the writings satisfactorily account for this difference. If this be kept in mind, together with the explanation as given in the beginning of this chapter, the above objection in no sense invalidates the argument set forth in these pages.

4. It has been objected that the conditions of these experiences are different; to be filled with the Spirit, as understood to-day, calls for the fullest surrender and the most thorough consecration, while in apostolic times it was granted to those who were evidently the most ordinary Christians. In answer to this it may be said:

- (a) There is no clear evidence that the three thousand at Pentecost were thus filled.
- (b) It has been thought that at such an initial time, to lend the kingdom all possible advance it may have seemed wise to the Head of the Church to bestow this gift on less stringent conditions.

- (c) The better answer, however, is that the objection involves an unwarranted assumption; there is no evidence that those filled were other than they who were of the required character for this experience.

In view of the first three objections, should any consider them formidable, there is no baptism with the Spirit for the believer to-day, but, as already explained, the *name* and the *miracle*, as the point of emphasis, have no part in the nature of the act and process, — for it is both, — and if this last is not essentially different in either case, then the experience itself is virtually the same. If the Spirit's operations are essentially the same both in the baptism and the filling, the name is of small importance; it is not a question of nomenclature, but of a spiritual act and process which remain in nature unchanged by whatever term it may be designated.

We observe then:

- (1) There are many fillings. Two instances of Paul's filling have been noted, Acts 9:17, and 13:9; the Disciples were filled,

Acts 2:4, and again, 4:31; and Peter, a third time, Acts 4:8, each being an experience similar to Pentecost, says Kuyper, only weaker. These repeated fillings were all in view of service to be performed. That it was because these men had "passed into a realm of fear and trembling" (Morgan, "Spirit of God," page 189) that such filling must again be renewed we cannot with certainty affirm; it is not so difficult to conceive of being always "full of the Spirit" as the normal condition or habit of the soul, but that any one, even Peter or Paul, should, despite the limitations of the human nature, remain continually in the overflowing condition, at the utmost height of spiritual power and attainment, should at every minute of life be filled with the Spirit to the measure which at some particular crisis is necessary to the highest glory of God, is hardly possible to conceive. Such filling is, however, for us at whatever moment we need it and are ready to receive it.

The Filling of the Spirit and what some have chosen to call, and we have conceded may be

called, the Baptism with the Spirit, being therefore one and the same kind of experience, we fail to see the ground for saying, as does Cumming ("Through the Eternal Spirit," page 119), that there is but one baptism and many fillings, and that "the baptism is something not to be repeated in the experience of the man who receives it." MacNeil ("Spirit-filled Life," page 37) says, "The filling may be and ought to be repeated over and over and over again; the baptism need be but once"; and again he says (page 39), "He must not continue praying for the baptism, for that cannot be repeated; whereas, he may ask and obtain a fresh filling, a refilling with the Holy Spirit every day of his life." Erdman, Morgan, Chapman, Carson all say, "one baptism and many fillings"; so also do Cumming and MacNeil.

This is the oft-quoted formula of Dr. Erdman; *but notice the above-mentioned writers do not all mean alike*; the first group refer the baptism to regeneration, I Cor. 12:13, for which there is reason, as already seen, and, if

admitted, the formula is true; Cumming and MacNeil, however, use the same formula, and refer the baptism to the special experience after regeneration, in which case the distinction is not a worthy one.

They say the baptism is the beginning of the full experience, and there can be only one beginning, and therefore one baptism; but this makes no distinction in the experience. Certainly there can be but one first, so also is there but one second, and along the line of Dr. Cumming's argument, with which we have in the main agreed, we find no room for saying the Baptism of the Spirit can never be repeated.

These baptisms, these fillings, by whatever name they are called, are all alike save in measure, and the last one may be greater than the first. We have all heard of the Second Blessing, counting regeneration the first, but some one has wisely said, "I believe not only in a second, but in a forty-second blessing."

(2) This experience, this filling or baptism, is subsequent to regeneration. It may be received for the first time on the same occasion

with our regeneration, but never in the same moment. Both logically and chronologically it is a subsequent operation of the Spirit. "The reason," says William Kelly, in his lectures on the "New Testament Doctrine of the Holy Spirit" (page 161), "is quite simple, for it is grounded on the fact that we are sons by faith in Christ, believers resting on redemption in Him."

Between the regeneration of the disciples and their filling some time elapsed, Acts 2:4; it was so in the case of Paul, Acts 9:17. If Paul's conversion occurred in the house of Judas, as Morgan would have us believe, and the filling likewise, still the latter would be subsequent to and dependent upon the former; if he were born of the Spirit on the way to Damascus, as is probable, and which Morgan does not vehemently oppose, then how, according to Morgan, could the filling be simultaneous with the regeneration ("The Spirit of God," page 187).

The same thing was true in the case of the Samaritan Christians, Acts 8:12-17. They

believed and were baptized in the name of Jesus under the preaching of a Spirit-filled man like Philip, and yet Dr. Morgan says none of them were converted or regenerated, reasoning that Simon Magus also believed, but was not truly regenerated; but his case proves nothing as to the real condition of the others; the trouble with Simon Magus was his "heart was not right," and Peter told him so, but this argues nothing as to the heart condition of the others. The gospel Philip preached was certainly as pure as that which fell from the lips of Peter, and we can see no legitimate ground for not calling these people Christians, and yet they were given the blessing of which we speak as a later experience.

The same thing is true of the believers in Acts 19: 1-6. Scofield (page 47) and Morgan (page 180) say, "These people were not Christians."

Most authorities hold differently. What we know is that they were disciples of John the Baptist, and in a certain sense it may be said they were not Christians. In which case neither

were the Disciples Christians before Pentecost, which position we have seen to be untenable. It is best to see in these people, whom Luke calls "disciples" and "believers," certain ones whose spiritual status warranted Paul holding before them the experience under consideration, to which as yet they were strangers, and which, as we have seen, comes subsequent to regeneration.

In the case of Cornelius, however, Acts 10:45-46 and 11:15, the regeneration and baptism were on the same occasion, practically simultaneous, although even here the logical order, as well as the chronological, by accurate distinction, must have been first regeneration and then baptism, as was also the case of the Ephesian disciples, Acts 19:1-6, even though we think of their conversion in connection with the experience brought to them by Paul; for they, first believing what Paul said, were baptized in the name of Jesus, presupposing regeneration, of course, and in this act a reception of the Spirit, Rom. 8:9; and then Paul laid his hands upon them, all of which took

a few moments at least, and then they received the Holy Spirit in the sense of this discussion.

At the self-same time of a man's conversion he may be given a special filling or baptism to meet some particular demand of the hour, but into the Spirit-filled condition in the sense of the more ordinary fulness, Eph. 5:18, he not only may enter at conversion, but God expects of him that he shall do so; these both, however, rest upon the fact that he is already born of the Spirit.

(3) Is this condition the normal (healthy) and a possible continuous one? This is not a hard question. In the immediate sense of Eph. 5:18 (the more ordinary fulness) the answer is, Yes. In the sense of the special filling for a special purpose the answer is, No. Cumming ("Through the Eternal Spirit," page 115), after likening this experience to the filling of the Disciples, says, "It is only from want of faith that subsequent outpourings of the Holy Spirit become needful." But if the filling has respect to equipment for some particular purpose, certainly a special outpouring

or filling for the particular thing at hand is the original purpose of God. We can understand how the "fulness of the Spirit" as a habit of the soul is the normal and more continuous condition, as with Barnabas and Stephen, and believe we know some to-day of whom it may be said they are "full of the Holy Spirit," but between this and the more specific filling a difference of degree has already been noted. Says Morgan (page 186), "When a man is born of the Spirit, he is baptized with the Spirit and is filled with the Spirit." That when a man is born of the Spirit he has the Spirit is true, else he is none of His, Rom. 8:9; that he may then be filled with the Spirit is also true, as we have seen, but that he *is* then filled with the Spirit, either in the sense of the fulness of the Spirit, as a habit of the soul, or in the sense of being filled with the Spirit, after the fashion now engaging our attention, we can find no warrant either in Scripture or in the possible conception of our own mind.

(4) What is this filling of the Spirit? It

is nothing less than the very presence of God Himself working His unhindered will in the human soul, in which is experienced His power of mastery over the sin principle and whatever of the divine energy is necessary for the highest results in service or suffering. Power, energy, force, are to be appreciated, not defined.

There is power in fire; watch its unconquerable march over a proud city, whose buildings of brick and stone and iron are melted at its touch.

There is power in wind, driving the mighty ship across the seas, tearing deep-rooted forests from the earth, hurling huge buildings through space, and sweeping whole cities into splintered ruin.

There is power in water, — the power of a flood, — who can estimate it?

Yet, if these could speak, they could not tell you what power is; but these are in Scripture made emblems of the Holy Spirit; the supernatural power of the Spirit is symbolized, but only symbolized in the mighty dynamics of

these natural elements. Undefinable as their energy is, much less can the divine potency be explained.

What is power? "God hath spoken once, yes, twice have I heard this, that power belongeth unto God." Nor can it be divorced from God; nor can any man obtain it save as God Himself comes with it, and the "filling of the Holy Spirit" is the very self of God, *already indwelling the human soul through regeneration*, working out His unhindered will in and through the now divinely controlled faculties in the fullest manifestation of all that man can be and do.

The human will has allowed Him undisputed sway over the entire being so hallowed by His presence, and in turn with every other faculty of the inner man is energized with the very life of God Himself for the accomplishment in character and service of that for which it hath pleased the Almighty to bestow them.

Just here is, after all, the great difference in present-day teaching; much of other discussion springs, as has been noted, from a confusion

in nomenclature. The difficult question and the one, after all, to which it is impossible to give an absolute and unqualified answer is this: (1) Is this experience the working of the Spirit already within the believer; or (2) Is it another and special reception of the Spirit Himself; or (3) Is it both? To attempt such an answer as just indicated is for the finite to presume a knowledge sufficient to clarify the most infinite mystery, — the omnipresence of a divine Personality. That it is the second apart from the first we believe to be wholly unscriptural. That it is the first apart from the second is in a sense certainly true; as a divine Personality it is not in part, but in His entirety that the Spirit of God dwells in the believer; it is upon this view we are strongly inclined to believe the chief emphasis should rest. We may have more of the Spirit's filling, that is, more of His power, more of His influence, more of the fruit of the Spirit; but to speak of having more of the Spirit Himself, as does Andrew Murray ("Spirit of Christ," page 321), is to come dangerously near to a

species of mysticism hardly consistent with the accredited religious thought of the day.

However, the third of the above views, namely, the first two considered together, is not without argument in its favor. This is the view of Andrew Murray. He says ("Spirit of Christ," page 320), "That there is a great deal of prayer in which the presence of the Spirit is forgotten, is ignored, I admit and deplore; and yet it would be falling into the other extreme, if, because God has given and we have received the Spirit, we were no longer to pray for more of Him." F. B. Meyer also says, "Before undertaking any definite work for God, be sure you are equipped by a new reception of the Holy Ghost" ("A Castaway," page 100).

Moule, commenting on Eph. 1:17, says, "We are not to think of the 'giving' of the Spirit as an isolated deposit of what, once given, is now locally in possession." This is true, as is also Murray's statement that "God has not given His Spirit in the sense of parting with Him."

The Spirit is in heaven, as well as in the believer, and He is at the same time in every believer, yet, in speaking of a personality as we are, we have found ourselves unable to appreciate Mr. Murray's comparison of the desire for the Spirit's filling to the fingers crying to the heart for more blood, the branch crying to the vine for more sap, and the lungs crying to the air for more breath.

There is in this mode of speaking the danger just referred to, and the liability of leaving with the less thoughtful reader the impression of an influence rather than a personality. To define, especially in a theological sense, is always easier than to appreciate the subject of the definition as defined. Nowhere is this more true than in the case before us; how much easier to define the Holy Spirit as a person than to think of the Holy Spirit as such when we are thinking of omnipresence or of soul experiences which we know are from God; and the very fact that this is so, together with the fact that so many, even among those who may have the most correct definition, have

accustomed themselves to think thus carelessly about this blessed Presence, should guard us carefully against any mode of expression that might in any way seem to favor such impression.

We have thought long here, but have been left always as at the outset. The subject deals with Infinity, and while many have made statements conformable as they believe to Scripture, it is satisfying to note that not in a single volume is any attempt made to deal with this inscrutable mystery with a view to making it wholly intelligible to the finite mind; we are in the presence of the Infinite, and it becomes us to say, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth," and to be satisfied with what He says.

This most precious bestowal we have been accustomed to explain by figurative expressions; indeed, we have been taught in this by the inspired writers themselves. Even baptism and filling are figurative as touching any relation the Holy Spirit can bear to an individual. We speak, as indeed does the Word, of His

filling us, clothing us, being poured upon us, etc.; all of which are accommodations to the finite. All the definitions in the world can never explain what God is, and no more can any amount of philosophizing explain how by His Spirit He enters into man, regenerates him or operates within him; this is a mystery more infinite than life itself, but we have not only the postulates of reason that it may be so, but the Word of God and our own experience that it is so, which is more powerful evidence than anything metaphysics could ever bring to us.

(5) Is it a definite, conscious, once-for-all experience?

Note the following expressions:

"It is a crisis done definitely, done once for all." J. F. Carson, "Evangelistic Work," January, 1900.

"The baptism of the Spirit is the beginning of the full Christian experience, and that can never be repeated." Cumming, "Through the Eternal Spirit," page 119.

"He must not continue praying for the bap-

tism, for that cannot be repeated." MacNeil, "Spirit-filled Life," page 39.

"It is a definite experience of which a person may know whether or not he has it." Torrey, "Baptism with the Spirit."

These are but a few of the many similar expressions that might be quoted from writers, all of whom are speaking of an experience subsequent to regeneration, such as is under consideration.

Certainly it is definite, an actual occurrence definitely brought to pass, else nothing to be appreciated. Definiteness does not, however, necessarily imply consciousness. The act of self-dedication, the committal to God for this filling, are both definite and conscious in the believer's experience, but the filling consequent thereon may not at the moment be realized in his consciousness; the filling is a reality within him, nevertheless.

How, then, it is asked, does he come into the consciousness of it. In two ways, — in three ways, it may be said. I know at once this filling is mine; having met the conditions

as best I can, I receive the promise of the Spirit by faith, Gal. 3: 14. I have taken God at His word and I know. This may be called one way, but note the distinction between knowledge and consciousness as here used. I know in the above sense, and yet I may not have come into the consciousness of it as a realized possession, and into this consciousness I come in two ways, the more usual of which, certainly the more satisfactory, is by His own manifestation in me and through me. As F. B. Meyer says, "Reckoning that God has kept His word with you, dare to believe it, though you may not be conscious of any emotion, and you will find when you come to work or to suffer or to meet temptation that there will be in you the consciousness of a power which you have never known before, and which will indicate the filling of the Spirit."

This by no means excludes the possibility of an immediate consciousness. The fiery tongues, the sound, and the shaken house are no more; the "electric waves" that seemed to go through Finney, and all such peculiar

experiences are largely, if not wholly, matters of temperament; no matter how Spirit-filled some men might become, they could never approach unto anything of such character, but may, nevertheless, have the more silent, quiet witness of a feeling within as deep, as sure, as self-satisfying.

It is not our thought to speak in doubtful terms about the reality of this or the more extraordinary experiences of men like Finney, but only to affirm that such are not essential to the "filling" itself, and that the more usual way into the consciousness of it is as above denoted.

Is, then, this experience once for all?

Whether it be the filling in the sense of the sudden, decisive experience for some specific purpose, or whether it be the more habitual fulness of the Spirit, the answer in either case is a decided No. The fact that Scripture records many fillings in the former sense ought to be an answer sufficiently definite in the negative so far as it is concerned. *All who have claimed a distinction between the first*

so-called, never-to-be-repeated experience and later fillings, have utterly failed to show wherein the distinction consists.

That the fulness of the Spirit as the more permanent condition of the soul is a varying quantity no one for a moment doubts; this belongs to the rationale of the thing we are discussing. The first departs with the occasion and its need; the second varies according as we commit to God or assume for ourselves the control of our life. And yet we hear of a "crisis," of something "taking place once for all," and often the bewildered inquirer finds himself confronted with a certain day of the year as marking the exact time of this "never-to-be-repeated experience."

Cumming, whose distinction between the baptism and the filling of the Spirit is by no means a clear one, speaks of a "first time" ("Through the Eternal Spirit," page 114). Is not this, after all, the explanation? There was a time when they first consciously made what they conceived to be a definite and full surrender to God. In a very certain sense

such a moment did mark a crisis. That particular surrender can, of course, never be repeated, nor ought there ever to be occasion for any other like it, but the resulting experience to the soul was not the "filling" in the more specific sense of equipment for some special purpose, but the "fulness" which must be presupposed in case of the former, and which comes and goes according to the constancy of our abiding truly in Him.

We deplore the tendency which would gather about the teacher bands of earnest inquirers who look upon him as having had some strange never-to-be-repeated experience, the lack of which has been crippling their own ministry, and who, when asking how to get it, are told to do so and so; and many of them will say, "All this have we done, and yet were never conscious of this experience of which you speak," and go away in uncertainty and sorrow, while the truth may be that many of them may have been in the possession of that very something, possibly in a greater degree

than the one whose experience they fain would know.

The point of discussion is, as to what occurred at the time of this definite surrender, and that is the fulness of the Spirit exactly such as he may get many times later, and exactly such as he may have had in less measure in times of lesser consecration before this crisis.

This filling of the Spirit, however it be viewed, is a matter of degree. Almost every Christian, shall we say every Christian (yes, we must), is to a degree filled with the Spirit — a degree that in some — alas, many — is inappreciable; that degree increases according to our committal of ourselves to God, and in moments of such deep, definite conscious surrender as have been under consideration, it leaps into fulness unmeasured, gives to the Christian the mastery over self, and sends him forth in the hour of service with a power that none can stay.

This experience, then, viewed in either light, is not a once-for-all occurrence. That there may be a crisis, a turning-point in a man's

spiritual life, coming at the time of this first definite surrender, is true, but the fulness of the Holy Spirit which comes to him then is certainly no different in nature from what to a certain though probably slight degree was always his, nor necessarily different in degree from that which will come to him whenever he puts himself in a condition to receive it.

We need the continual fulness of the Spirit, and there is but one way to get it, and but one way to keep it. Should we wander away from God and lose this priceless blessing, well-nigh altogether, it may be, we will get it again if we seek it in the self-same way as before. We need also the refilling of the Spirit for service as much as ever did the Apostles, and we will get it in the same way whenever the occasion calls for it.

Furthermore, as there are those who do not know the day of their regeneration, so there are those to whose Spirit-filled condition their holy lives and works lend evidence as undeniable as ever any man showed forth, whose testimony is that they have grown into the

realization of this blessed Spirit-filled condition coming to them in accordance with the same rule without their remembering any such definite, never-to-be-repeated crisis in their lives.

(6) And now we come to what is, after all, the important question. Paul said, "Be filled with the Spirit." As already explained, Paul's more immediate reference here was to living in the Spirit-filled condition, but the conditions governing the reception of the Spirit's fulness in this sense are likewise the underlying requirements for the occasional special fillings in view of some specific service to be performed. But how may I obtain this filling of the Spirit? There is one supreme condition already suggested. There are, however, certain prerequisites to this condition, and which in the various answers given to the above question have likewise, and not without warrant, been called conditions. We prefer, however, to call them prerequisites, especially as they are necessarily involved in the one supreme condition to which we shall shortly refer. Two of these prerequisites refer to the disposition of the soul,

and the third to the state of the soul, while what we shall call the one condition refers to an act of the soul.

I. The first of these prerequisites is an *Intense, unselfish desire to be thus filled*. See Isa. 44:3, where the "water" and the "Spirit" are synonymous. It is a blessing to be earnestly desired. But note this desire must be an unselfish one. "It is no part of the Spirit's work to glorify us; His great work is to glorify Christ" (Macgregor, "A Holy Life," page 136). The desire to be used may be an accursed ambition; it is only when a deep, earnest desire for the honor and glory of Jesus marks the disposition of him who covets this experience that he is coming into the place where it may be realized.

II. The second of these prerequisites, referring also to the disposition of the soul, is *Faith*. This is not the appropriating faith of Gal. 3:14, but faith, as John F. Carson has said, "to believe it is possible for you;" faith to believe that God will do it for you because He has promised it; faith, Scofield

says ("Plain Papers on the Doctrine of the Spirit," page 65), "to believe that the risen and glorified Christ is able and willing to bestow the fulness of the Spirit," and will bestow it. Faith in the appropriating sense, though involved in this former, can be exercised only as the filling is accomplished. (See Scofield, page 65, for a clear statement of this distinction.)

III. The third prerequisite, the one referring to the state of the soul, is *Emptiness* — the necessary state of any vessel that is to be filled. We have been told to be consistent, to give up sin, to be emptied, but these are the very things no man can do, but they are the very things the Holy Spirit filling a man enables him to do, and it would be quite as pertinent to ask, "How may I be emptied?" A man is no farther along when he has been told of this necessary state of the soul than he was before.

With these prerequisites clearly before us, it is now in order to consider the one supreme, and what may be called, inasmuch as it refers

neither to a disposition nor a state, but to an act of the soul, the only condition of thus receiving the Holy Spirit in the sense of in-filling. This is what has been variously called "yieldedness" (Scofield), "abandonment" (Morgan), "full surrender" (Chapman), "consecration" (MacNeil). These are all excellent and expressive terms. It is a whole-hearted, absolute, unqualified committal — an unconditional surrender of ourselves to God. Of course this act is definite, and, as concerns the will, final, irreversible, and never to be repeated, and it is God's idea that there should never be an occasion for any other like it, but the mistake must not be made of reading the ideal into the real. When Paul says, "yield yourselves," Rom. 6:13, and "present your bodies a living sacrifice," Rom. 12:1, he uses the aorist — it was to be done once for all, and this certainly is what every believer does or wills to do, and thinks he does when he thus deliberately gives himself to God, but that any man ever so gave himself to God as to leave no necessity for a further giving in all

his life, is to the writer a thing altogether inconceivable.

Such a definite, irrevocable committal one is supposed to make in the first glad hour of his surrender to Christ; in fact, he says he makes it; he means it, and upon such avowal he is received into church fellowship, but as he grows in the knowledge of God he discovers that true surrender involves sacrifice which his earlier meager experience could not reveal to him, and so "from step to step, from strength to strength, from faith to faith, the life goes on growing humbler, sweeter, more surrendered, and yet ever more filled with the Holy Spirit" (Cumming, "Through the Eternal Spirit," page 241).

And there is one thing else to be considered. True, as Scofield says (page 61), "A sacrificer under the dispensation of the law never dreamed of reasserting authority over a creature once brought to the priest," but in all such typifications there was involved, and necessarily, the ideal of that which was to be, even as Paul expresses the same kind of an

act by the word alone. Indeed, some have declared it a thing altogether impossible for man to make such an ideal surrender, though in a passing fit, than the thoughtless rushing of perfectionists. But even assuming the possibility of surrendering in this ideal way, we must distinguish between a perfect life and a perfect surrender.

The surrender is ideal, in intent, at least, but, as before noted, that no man, be his surrender ever so perfect, came into a condition of the identity in which he never knew anything else to be considered, so no man, no matter how perfect his surrender, has ever been removed thereby from the possibility of the region of duty in some later period of his life; and to make the surrender by which a man comes into the experience under consideration something never to be repeated, is practically to make it permanent, to ignore our frailty and our fallibility, and to make no provision for the wanderer who must come back to God and receive the coveted blessing on a condition, technical

with that which governed its reception at the time of his first surrender.

Dr. Scofield (page 63) deploras "the practice of continually repeated consecrations (so called)," proving, as he thinks, the lack of this definite, once-for-all surrender. Certainly it is not God's idea that we should continually be doing a thing that should be done once for all, as the root meaning of consecration implies, and while possibly another word might take its place, yet since in every human nature there is still what Dr. Van Dyke, in his "Gospel for an Age of Sin," calls the "radical twist" so productive of "crooked results," and since every sin is practically a taking the gift of ourselves from the altar, asserting the control of self, it is necessary, whenever one is conscious of so having done, to come to God in renewed consecration; whether it be an unholy thought, a display of temper, or some grosser displeasure to God, it is only a difference in degree after all.

These remarks are not intended to deny that a man may have such a crisis-marking day in

his life from which he dates the first great filling of the Spirit, but to affirm that such a surrender is what we are supposed to make when we give ourselves to Christ, what in fact every really converted man wills to do and says he does, but which, alas for his weakness, he finds he has not done, and must either by an ever-increasing spiritual growth which involves surrender all along the way arrive, and yet be ever arriving at what is termed the "surrendered life," without the remembrance of any one particular crisis step into the "surrendered life," and consequently into such a fulness of the Spirit as he had never before realized, the filling of the Spirit which he then received, let it be repeated, differing only in degree from what was his in previous times; for certainly a minister who looks with rich satisfaction and rightly upon some such hour, possibly twenty years after he took upon himself the ordination vow, which in itself involves such a surrender, would not repudiate all his past life as being in no wise Spirit led, his preaching in no wise Spirit empowered, his

earnest striving after holiness in no wise Spirit helped.

The filling of the Spirit, we again remark, is a matter of degree. Some have asked, "How much of the Spirit may I have?"

We feel like answering, "You may have all there is of Him — no more and no less," but refer the reader to the discussion elsewhere (page 93). But to have the Spirit is not to have His filling. The degree pertains to the filling; it is "evermore surrendered and evermore filled with the Holy Spirit."

What now does such surrender involve? As to service, "anything, any time, anywhere," but something else must come first — the emptiness, a heart emptied of sin and surrender implies the desire to have the heart emptied, and an effort on our part to bring it about. This effort is not, however, to be made alone, — as such it were fruitless, — but the Holy Spirit already within is there to help, and as the vessel is made empty and cleansed is the filling of the Spirit made possible. As Dr. Chapman ("Received Ye the Holy Ghost,"

page 85) has said, "To give up ninety-nine parts of the nature and withhold the hundredth is to put a hindrance in the way of the blessing." After all, it seems that Mr. Boys was right. "If we were asked very briefly the true meaning of being filled with the Spirit, we should say that it involved, not our having more of the Spirit, but rather the Spirit having more of us" ("Filled with the Spirit," page 29).

Some have made faith (Gal. 3:4) a condition of the filling; this, of course, is involved in the faith already mentioned, as faith to believe He will give on a certain condition involves faith to believe that He has given when that condition is met.

This is the faith that appropriates: having met the condition, reckon the thing done; wait not for any sound or coronet of flame, but go forth to live and work, not trying to feel filled, but daring to believe that you are filled, and that filling will become to you an experience more real than which there is none in all the universe.

Being thus filled with the Spirit, the varying measure of this condition is our faithfulness; as Morgan has said (page 231), "The filling of the Spirit is retained by abiding in Christ." Acts 5:32 and I John 3:24 is the Bible rule for this retention. Yet we need for each separate service a new and additional equipment of power; not that all the filling has been lost, but that such equipment comes only as occasion demands; then in humble acknowledgment of anything which may not have been as He would have it, by faith as before reckon the needed filling yours, and, going forth to duty, let Him prove Himself unto you in power.

CHAPTER XI.

THE INTERCESSION OF THE SPIRIT



WILL pour upon the house of David the Spirit of grace and of supplication." Zech. 12: 10.

"Because ye are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying Abba, Father." Gal. 4: 6.

"For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." Eph. 2: 18.

"The Spirit also helpeth our infirmity; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered, and He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8: 26, 27.

“With all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit.” Eph. 6:18.

“Praying in the Holy Spirit.” Jude 20.

No one can read the above passages without seeing at once that the Holy Spirit bears a very intimate relation to the prayers of a Christian. All spiritual experience finds its source in the indwelling Spirit of God, and as prayer plays so important a part in such experience the fact just stated ought to occasion no surprise. It is Andrew Murray who says, “The mystery of prayer is the mystery of the divine indwelling,” and John Owen, who has remarked “that it cannot be denied that the assistance which the Holy Spirit gives in our prayers and supplications is more frequently and expressly asserted in the Scripture than any other operation of His whatsoever,” and many a one has confessed his agreeable surprise in discovering, on going through the Word, how much real prayer is one of the “things of the Spirit,” and has lent glad testimony that prayer becomes immeasurably sweeter, an altogether new experience, when the soul is properly

under His control in this most holy exercise. Let us therefore endeavor to see something of the Spirit's place in prayer. Everything may not be altogether clear to our limited vision, but if our study help us to appreciate Him a little more, it will be time well spent. Just *how* "the Spirit helpeth our infirmity"; just the way in which He "intercedes for us with groanings that cannot be uttered," we may not know; but to know that He does; what an encouragement to "come boldly to the throne of grace." Our "praying in the Holy Spirit" may not be without its mystery, but that we may so pray, and so pray acceptably; what an encouragement to take our place in the school of prayer that the Spirit Himself may teach us *how to pray*.

If you will turn first to the Old Testament you will find that one of the distinct purposes of the Holy Spirit's coming was that He might have a part in the prayer life of God's children. The passage is Zechariah 2:10, "I will pour upon the house of David and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of

supplication." Supplication is not needed for any member of the Godhead, and the Spirit's work in this respect must therefore be for us, and what is promised here to the weakest saint in the out-going of his soul to God is the co-operation of the all-knowing, all-powerful Spirit of God Himself.

If you will now turn to the appointed time for the fulfilling of Old Testament promise, you will read in Galatians 4:6, "Because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying Abba, Father." Here we find God doing exactly what He promised to do; sending the blessed Holy Spirit, and sending Him as a Spirit of prayer, enabling us to say, "Our Father who art in heaven." Notice in passing, please, that this Spirit is called the Spirit of His Son. Because we have the Spirit of His Son we are sons. Now read I John 3:1, and think of all this means! It is rich with blessing for those who understand. It is through the Son that "we have access by one Spirit unto the Father" (Ephesians 2:18). We can "come

boldly to the throne of grace" because our Father sits upon it. It is the Spirit of Sonship that distinguishes prayer from beggary. "When the evidence of sonship grows dim we knock feebly at mercy's door."

But this is not all the Word says about the Holy Spirit in prayer. We read in Romans 8:26, "The Spirit also helpeth our infirmity; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

The word "infirmity," while referring to our human weakness in general, has its special reference here to our weakness in prayer. The word "helpeth" is a queer compound in the original, composed of three different words, and literally means, "to lay hold of in connection with." It is the same word Martha used when she told the Master to bid Mary help her in the work she was doing. How precious this truth! What if the new birth does not wholly relieve us of all infirmity? Have we not One ever with us whose strength

is made perfect in our weakness (II Cor. 12:9)?

And when "we know not what to pray for as we ought," how does He help us? It is said that "He maketh intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered." The word "intercession" is the same word used of Christ in I John 2:1, "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous." We have, therefore, two advocates continually pleading our cause before the throne of grace. Christ's intercession takes place in heaven; the Holy Spirit's takes place on earth in the believer's heart. Christ pleads at the throne of glory for His redeemed that He may obtain for them the benefit of His sacrifice; the Holy Spirit pleads at the throne of grace for all the deep and hidden needs of the soul.

As to the precise character of the Spirit's intercession for us, we find ourselves in the realm of that which, to a certain degree, must remain unintelligible. The verse is a mine of truth, and if you would discover all of its

hidden treasure, you must dig deep down. There are two interpretations, and since what we are writing is designed as a help in the study of this so very important subject, we shall here endeavor to set them forth in such way as to help you to a conclusion of your own, reserving, of course, the same privilege for ourselves.

One of these interpretations has been developed recently and at length in Kuyper's somewhat overloaded work on the Holy Spirit. ("The Work of the Holy Spirit," page 636.)

This interpretation which has remained for Dr. Kuyper to elaborate in such detail is very ingenious, and withal so attractive that we have found ourselves almost wishing that the Scripture in question had made it a little clearer that such is really its meaning; for Dr. Kuyper's explanation is by no means an unsubstantiated one, though much he has written in connection with it is gathered by inference rather than from the Word of God.

In a word, Kuyper argues that the intercession of the Holy Spirit is altogether inde-

pendent of our spirit, and that the unutterable groanings in our heart are His, the Holy Spirit's, and not those which we, incited by the Spirit, heave forth.

His reasons for this view are as follows:

(1) Since the groanings of verse 23 properly belong to us, the "likewise" of verse 26 must "introduce a new thing," and the groanings therefore are not ours as in verse 23, but the Spirit's.

(2) The word "intercession" is the same as used in verse 34, and since Christ's intercession is wholly his own, why is the same not true of the Spirit?

(3) One of the prepositions (anti) in the word "helpeth" confirms this explanation. The word "helpeth" is made up of two prepositions and a verb. The word is "sunantilambano"; sun (with), anti (over against, or in place of), and lambano (to take hold).

(4) Verse 27 says that God knoweth the mind, not of the man, but of the Spirit who maketh intercession.

(5) The intercession is made "according

to the will of God," and this can be said of the Holy Spirit alone.

With this explanation thus confirmed in his mind, Kuyper deducts from it a most pleasing view of the Spirit's work in prayer. Such independent intercession of the Spirit in our behalf takes place because of our infirmity. If we were brought at once by regeneration into the condition of perfect holiness, such intercession of the Spirit for the saint would not be necessary, for the saint then being himself all that he ought to be could pray as he ought to pray. Such unutterable groanings of the Spirit in the Christian's behalf are therefore to be thought of as taking place in proportion as the Christian fails to properly pray for himself. Such we are to believe to be especially the case in the heart of the young Christian, because in his early Christian experience, being yet a babe in the new life, he knows neither how nor what to pray for as he ought. Such, Kuyper would have us believe, is true of "the child regenerated in the cradle and deceased before conversion was possible,

and who could not pray for himself": The Holy Spirit in him, therefore, prays for him with groanings that cannot be uttered. Such intercession He also makes for the indifferent disciple and the backslider and for the one who "has fallen into temporary apostasy." Thus when the man has ceased praying altogether, the Holy Spirit's prayer within him continues and never fails.

But even while the Spirit thus prays in our behalf, He is teaching us more and more to pray correctly for ourselves, and as we advance in the art, His own intercession becoming thereby more and more superfluous, He takes up his work *in our own prayers*, and cries unto God through human lips. His praying *for* us gives place more and more to His praying *with* us. While He is praying for us, He is at the same time teaching us better how to pray for ourselves, that gradually His own independent praying may become superfluous; not that it will ever in this life become wholly superfluous, for even in our most advanced state on earth we will still have our

limitations, and be circumscribed somewhat by our infirmity. Nor is it meant that the Spirit teaches us to pray, that He may leave us to ourselves in proportion as His intercession becomes unnecessary, for only as we "pray in the Spirit" (Jude 20) can we really pray at all, but, comforting as the thought of His intercession for us may be, how infinitely better that our own prayer life be perfected by Him than to live in such spiritual infirmity as forces Him to cry continually to God in our behalf. We ask you now, whoever you may be that reads these pages, Is not this a most inviting thought? It is rich with meaning. It flashes with beauty like a jewel in the sunlight. It is full of comfort. Just to sit and think of it means to be "lost in wonder, praise, and love." And it is not an unlikely thought. Nor is there any reason for doubting its truth. It is not unscriptural. I mean by that, there is nothing in Scripture to oppose it even if it be not explicitly taught in the verse under consideration.

Now let us see what others have said about

this remarkable verse. There is another interpretation. It belongs to the expositors of the earlier period, and is the interpretation that has been usually received. It is that the groanings in question are the unutterable sighs of the human soul as it is incited and wrought upon by the Holy Spirit. Olshausen and most critical students of the past century are so emphatic in their opposition to ascribing groans to the Holy Spirit that it takes several exclamation points to express their surprise that any one would ever think of doing it.

Ponder over the verse as we will, we cannot get away from the impression that in some way these groanings are to be associated with the consciousness of the individual, and when once this is admitted, it becomes, in part at least, fatal to the view which Dr. Kuyper has championed. Doubtless you have already inferred from the discussion of that view that the independent intercession of the Spirit is in Kuyper's mind something altogether apart from the believer's consciousness. In fact he says, "We are not conscious of it."

We remark :

(1) This does not necessarily follow, even though you think of these groanings as belonging wholly to the Spirit. Strange enough Kuyper himself admits that these groanings may be through the human organs of speech (and so, of course, something, we must say, in which the believer necessarily shares), though seemingly unaware that such admission is utterly incompatible with the teaching for which he makes the verse responsible. This we will make clear in a moment.

(2) The groanings may be attributed to the Spirit, as the author, inspirer, and finally the interpreter of them, and yet in a very certain sense be said to be our own.

In two other instances the Holy Spirit is said to be the agent of expression within us. In Matthew 10:20 it is said, "Take no thought (overanxious concern) how or what ye shall speak; for it shall be given unto you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father that speaketh in you." It is here the

Spirit who speaks, and yet not apart from the disciple's consciousness nor without the use of the human organs of speech, nor in such a way that it cannot be said in a very certain sense that it is, nevertheless, the disciple who speaks. This is made clearer still by other Scripture. In Galatians 4:6 it is said, "Because ye are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father," and in Romans 8:15 it is said, "But ye have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba, Father." What in one passage the Holy Spirit is said to do, in the other is predicated of ourselves as influenced and incited by the Holy Spirit.

(3) The words, "We know not what we should pray for as we ought," which serve to introduce the particular help given by the Spirit, strongly intimate an effort on the believer's part.

(4) The words "cannot be uttered" favor this view. They must refer to human incapacity. If the phrase, which is one word in the Greek, could be translated "unuttered," that

is, mute, inaudible, it might not be altogether inadmissible to say they belong wholly to the Spirit, for such groanings might then be thought of as some fervent internal sighing of the Holy Spirit constituting a silent, inarticulate outgoing to God on the Spirit's part in our behalf.

But if, on the other hand, the translation, "unutterable," that is, cannot be uttered or expressed in words, — if this translation be preferred, then whether the groanings be silent or otherwise, how can we predicate of the Holy Spirit any such incapacity? Is there any thought that cannot be expressed, if only we are capable of finding the proper vehicle of expression? And in this we may fail, but certainly not the Holy Spirit.

Now that both the Authorized and Revised translation of the word is correct, and that the emphasis is to be laid not on the groanings being *unuttered*, inaudible, but on their being *unutterable*, that is, incapable of being expressed in words or distinct terms, is evident from the fact that only this can be proved by

linguistic usage, and is favored by the analogy of all words of like ending with this one, and adopted by nearly all scholars, past and present.

(5) There is an argument in the soul's experience. What child of God has not been in the place of uncertainty when he was not sure of the Father's will; in the place of a straightened soul when he could hardly find the heart to pray (II Samuel 7:27); or (if his experience has been in any degree what it ought to be) to the place of spiritual exaltation which seemed like a foretaste of something still beyond, in all of which he felt that no distinct words could express to God the infinite good for which he longed or the blessing that would allay the distress of his heart?

Since such experience, which is actual, harmonizes with what many have always supposed to be the meaning of the Scripture in question, it cannot be unreasonable to suppose that the one finds, to some extent, its explanation in the other. And if it be true, what comfort then in moments of such uncertainty and such

intensity when the only human relief is in our own unutterable sighings and groanings, just to be assured that the Holy Spirit is beneath it and back of it and in it all, and that in these outgoings of the soul God can see the mind of the Spirit who is through them making known our hidden needs at the throne of grace.

(6) The arguments set forth by Dr. Kuyper to confirm his view are not unquestionably conclusive. See them again on page 199, for we are now to examine them.

(1) The "Likewise" simply introduces a new ground of encouragement. Our patience born of hope is the first ground, and now is introduced the Holy Spirit's help as a second. Even though we grant the word looks further on to the new groanings to be introduced, it can hardly be said to define in any way, even by contrast with verse 23, the more particular character of the groanings.

(2) The fact that the usual word for intercession is used carries little if any weight in determining this particular question, unless Dr. Kuyper can show that the view he op-

poses could more reasonably expect some other word.

(3) The word "helpeth," which Kuyper argues in support of his position, favors, we are forced to feel, the very opposite. It is only used twice in the New Testament, the other passage being in Luke 10:40, where Martha begs the assistance of Mary to help her in the work she was doing—to share with her in serving. It is used a few times in the Greek translation of the Old Testament, and always with this same meaning; not to do something in place of another, but to share something with another. This the preposition "sun" (with) argues. It may also be argued from the preposition "anti," whose primary meaning is "over against," "opposite," and not "instead of" or "in place of," which are secondary and derived meanings.

(4) and (5) These are Kuyper's strongest arguments. Yet even these hardly warrant the wide distinction he has drawn in this operation between the acting of the Holy Spirit and our own.

It does not say that God knows the mind of the man, for the man has practically no mind himself in the matter; his spirit, stirred and exalted by the Holy Spirit, has gotten beyond his understanding, and while he knows he wants something, just what that infinite good for which he yearns may be he cannot tell, and under the operation of God's own blessed Spirit he comes to the place where his emotions are too big for utterance, and where he can do nothing but give himself to inexpressible groanings, and whether they be groanings vocal or sighings inaudible, God can see in them, deeper down than human thought or feeling, what is the mind of the Spirit who is the responsible agent in it all. And why? Not because He is or must be informed by the Spirit, but because the Spirit, having searched the deep things of God (I Cor. 2:10), has only been urging the believer on toward what God Himself has prepared. It is all "according to God," and must therefore be intelligible to him, and in it all He dis-

covers in all its sublime reality his own holy purpose for his praying child.

Now with such help as we have tried to give, you must decide for yourself which explanation in your own judgment is preferable. We repeat that by our judgment we are inclined to the second, and prefer to think of these inexpressible sighings as those of the human soul under the influence and incitement of the Holy Spirit.

And now it is quite easy to see how such a view, which we accept as correct, is fatal, in part at least, to the teaching which Dr. Kuyper draws from his. And this will be seen by simply asking, Who is it that longs so unspeakably for what God may have to give? If these groanings may, *in the sense above described*, have a reference to the acting of the human soul, of what Christian is it that such reaching out after God may be affirmed? Plainly not the half-hearted and indifferent one, not the one who has "fallen into temporary apostasy," but just the one whose prayer life has been most perfected, the one

who has progressed farthest in divine things. The more such an one drinks at the fountain, the deeper becomes his thirst. Conscious still of unsatisfied yearnings, though he may not understand just what the needed blessing is, nor exactly how to pray under the given circumstance, not knowing altogether "what to pray for as he ought," he knows full well his need is understood at the throne of grace whence comes all supply, and though carried on by the Spirit beyond the experience of the more ordinary Christian, because of his "weakness," which he may not expect to disappear entirely in this life, he finds relief only in those Spirit-wrought sighings and groanings so intense as to be unutterable, and so leaves his case in the hands of God. This is certainly true of spiritual blessing, and not unfrequently so when seeking for material good.

"This arises," says Principal Brown, "partly from the dimness of our spiritual vision in the present veiled state and the large admixture of ideas and feelings which spring from the fleeting objects of sense that there is in the very

best views and affections of our renewed natures; partly also from the necessary imperfection of all human language as a vehicle for expressing the subtle spiritual feelings of the heart. In these circumstances how can it be but that a degree of uncertainty should often surround our spiritual exercises, and that, in our nearest approaches and the fullest outpouring of our hearts to our Father in heaven, doubts should spring up within us as to the exact needs of the soul and the precise frame of mind altogether fitting and well pleasing to God in such exercise. Nor do these anxieties subside, but rather deepen with the depth and ripeness of our spiritual experience."

Consequently, instead of the Spirit's intercessory aid decreasing as we advance in spiritual life until it "gradually becomes superfluous," it is just in proportion as we thus advance that His help is most needed. The higher we climb the more we need His help to reach out after the things beyond. And thus we see that the main reference of the verse, so far as the child of God is concerned, is to one of the

highest aspects of prayer in the experience of the most advanced believer, and not to prayerless, indifferent, and thoughtless Christians.

Of course the Master at whose feet such an one has sat all the course through is the same all-sufficient Spirit of God, and the intercessory help to which we have been referring, although the chief import of this wonderful verse in Romans, is but one form in which His much needed assistance is vouchsafed to us, and the perfecting of the prayer life, which Kuyper represents as increasing in proportion as the Spirit's intercession decreases, is just the course through which the Christian passes on his way to those deeper experiences in which the Spirit makes intercession for him with groanings that cannot be uttered.

And all this is what Paul meant by "praying in the Holy Ghost." Oh, if we did but realize vividly all that true prayer implies, and our own spiritual infirmity as we undertake to engage in prayer, I am sure we would as vividly realize our own utter helplessness apart

from the Spirit's gracious help; but thank God, the Holy Spirit knows our infirmity, and with divine pity He looks upon us, and lends Himself to us, and so purifying our affections, enlightening our minds, and begetting holy desires He works in us the prayer that God would have us utter.

McCheyne used to say that a great part of his time was occupied in getting his heart in tune for prayer. It does take time sometimes, and the heart never would get in tune if it were not for the Holy Spirit of God. It is He who prepares the heart for prayer; He who creates within us the desire to pray. This does not mean that we ought never to pray save as we are certain of the impulse of the Holy Spirit. We "ought always to pray," and even though the heart be out of tune, though it be dull and cold and heavy, even though we do not feel like praying, we ought to bow humbly and reverently before God, and tell Him how cold and prayerless our hearts are, and as we thus wait in silence before Him our hearts will be warmed and stirred and

strangely impressed with the mind of God, and coming thus into tune with the heart of God it shall be made indeed a heart of prayer.

What a wonderful Helper He is!

But more. When you have waited, and are still uncertain, and the impulse of hope almost fails, or have reached the place where some spiritual good beyond anything we have ever known we feel must come if what we may rightly call the distress of our hearts is to be relieved, and we can do nothing but pour out our soul in fervent and unutterable sighings — when we have reached such a place; that He, the Holy Spirit, should give to these inexpressible yearnings which He Himself caused to well up within us a language in which God reads His own best thought for His praying child — this is help in itself wonderful beyond expression. Do you remember the Holy Spirit's other name? It is *Paraclete*, "One called to our aid." Is He not exactly what His name implies He is?

CHAPTER XII.

THE EMBLEMS OF THE SPIRIT.



WORDS are often but lame vehicles in the conveyance of truth. Oftentimes, at their best, they but "half reveal and half conceal" the hidden depths of thought. To say the Holy Spirit is like the wind is to express more than many volumes can contain, and possibly just because this is so, God has chosen the use of many symbols to illustrate what otherwise, because of the poverty of our language, we could never know.

There are in the Scriptures six emblems of the Holy Spirit.

I. FIRE.

In Isa. 4:4, He is called the "Spirit of burning," where the reference is to the purging of Jerusalem from defilement.

In Matt. 3:11 and Luke 3:16, of Jesus it is said, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." To what does the "fire" refer?

(1) Hell-fire. — So Meyer, Lange, DeWette, Gess, Keim, Hengstenberg, Osterzee, and many others.

(2) Suffering with view of purification. — Cumming.

(3) Holy Spirit under the emblem of fire.

(a) For fiery boldness and zeal. — Farrar.

(b) For purification. — Godet, Calvin, Bengel, Olshausen, Riddle, Alford, Schaff, Andrew Murray, Scofield, Morgan, and many others.

Both the first and third views have much to support them. The arguments are too lengthy to be here in place. We are inclined to that which makes it an emblem of the Holy Spirit. It is hardly possible that the reference in John's words can be to the "tongues of fire" at Pentecost, though the same divine principle has for its emblem there a visible manifestation of what is here expressed in

word. If such reference were in mind, the primary signification of the emblem as here used would at least be changed, for, certainly apart from such reference, if the emblem refer at all to the Holy Spirit, the primary thought as conceived by nearly all expositors must be to His purifying influences. Fire is a separator, — a purifier; we are counselled to buy gold refined by fire, Rev. 3: 18, so the Holy Spirit, the fire of God, purifies the soul by consuming everything in it out of harmony with the divine kingdom.

(4) In Luke 12: 49, Jesus says, "I came to cast fire upon the earth." Morgan, supported by abundant critical authority, refers the fire in this passage to the pentecostal effusion of the Holy Spirit.

The desire of the Son of God following the statement would seem to confirm this view; however, the immediate reference to division, the natural and wise avoidance of imported meaning, and the equally consistent interpretation of the desire would seem to favor the opinion of Meyer, Alford, Lange, and others,

that the thought in mind was the spiritual excitement and discord consequent upon the proclamation of the Gospel.

(5) In Acts 2:3, it is recorded that there appeared unto them "tongues like as of fire." While the tongue had immediate reference to the instrument of service to be employed, the fiery appearance is taken by common consent as emblematic of the Spirit, with distinct reference to His inspirational work and consequent zeal and ardor of the disciples in the undertaking before them.

II. WIND.

The Holy Spirit is so revealed in three different places.

(1) In Ezk. 37:7-10, occurs the reanimation of the dry bones through the agency of the Spirit of God, where chiefly His vivifying power is set forth.

(2) Jno. 3:8, with reference to His regenerative work as indicative of His mysterious, independent, irresistible, penetrating, vivifying and purifying influence.

(3) In Acts 2:2, "a sound as of the rushing of a mighty wind" filled the house, — indicative here of His mighty unseen power. The tongues were seen, the wind was heard, but neither was felt. Neither flame nor wind was a reality. The tongue of light resembled fire; the sound was only compared to that of a mighty rushing wind. Notice also that the house in Acts 4:31 was shaken.

III. WATER.

(1) In Ex. 17:6, we see Moses in obedience to divine instruction smiting a rock in the wilderness, and out of it came flowing water pure and fresh, of which the thirsty Israelites drank and were satisfied. That rock was Christ, I Cor. 10:4, smitten for us, and that water, life-giving and refreshing, the Spirit, poured out on the ground of his accomplished work.

(2) In Ezk. 36:25-27, the people are to be sprinkled with clean water, a new heart and spirit given unto them and His Spirit put within them; the reality of that which

was typified in Num. 19, and referring beyond doubt to the converting and sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit.

(3) In Ezk. 47: 1, the prophet, in a vision, sees a river of water flowing out from the temple, running through the desert, carrying life wherever it goes, and healing at length the waters of the sea whither it flows. With this connect I Cor. 6: 19 and Jno. 7: 38 - 39.

(4) In Jno. 3: 5 is mentioned the birth "of water and of the Spirit." Here again water is symbolic of the Spirit. No matter whether the water be referred to Old Testament washings (Smeaton, Lampe); to John's baptism or to Christian baptism, these all have the same underlying idea, — they are symbolic representations of purification from sin. So also Tit. 3: 5.

(5) In Jno. 4: 14, the Holy Spirit, according to Smeaton, Riddle, Lange, Calvin, Luthardt, Keil, is promised as a well of water springing up into everlasting life. This phrase is referred by Justin and Cyprian to baptism; by Olshausen to Jesus Himself; by Meyer to

the truth; by Tholuck and Weiss to the word of salvation; by Grotius to the evangelical doctrine; by Lucke to faith; by Westcott and Godet to eternal life itself.

(6) In Jno. 7:38-39, it is said, "If any man thirst let him come to me and drink," and that out of the believer should flow "rivers of living water," and while it is not said the Holy Spirit is the river, but only that such remarks were made with reference to the Holy Spirit ("this spake He of the Spirit"), that is, the Holy Spirit was the agent and principle of the great outflowing streams of Christian influence and testimony, yet, as the Holy Spirit is the inner fountain, there is full propriety in finding in the passage an emblematic reference to Him as a satisfying, transforming, and life-giving power.

IV. SEAL.

He is thus revealed three times. (See chapter on the "Sealing of the Spirit.") The Holy Spirit as a seal makes the believer secure as the property of God, works an assurance of

such security in the believer's heart, Rom. 8: 16, bringing to him a consequent comfort and feeling of rest, transforming him into the likeness of Jesus, whose very image is on the seal, and making this life a heaven, for as an earnest He has given Himself to us here with all that He brings as a foretaste of the coming inheritance of glory.

V. OIL.

Two hundred and two times in the Word the anointing with oil is referred to, in eighty-eight of which references the word oil in some form is mentioned. In addition to this, the word oil occurs ninety-nine times, and the word ointment thirty-one times. We must be warned, however, against endeavoring to see in every such usage a prefiguration of the Holy Spirit and His work, as some without warrant do. Of many of these passages such reference is true; the immediate references in Scripture to the Holy Spirit as oil must, however, be gathered from the five passages in which He is spoken of as anointing three of

these, Luke 4:18; Acts 4:27; 10:38, refer to the anointing of Jesus, and the other two, I John 2:20, 27 and II Cor. 1:21, referring to the Holy Spirit as an anointing for the believer.

There are four Scriptural uses of anointing: (1) Anointing the guest, Eccl. 7:1; 9:8; Prov. 27:9; Luke 7:46. (2) Anointing for burial, Matt. 26:12; Jno. 12:3, 7. (3) Anointing for healing, Isa. 1:6; Jer. 8:22; Luke 10:34; Mark 6:13; Jas. 5:14. (4) Anointing for separation unto a holy calling, Ex. 29:7; 30:23, 33. Every believer is a king and priest unto God, and for his holy life and vocation is set apart by the anointing received at regeneration. The ointment was always charged with a sweet perfume; the odor of Mary's ointment filled all the room, and when the High Priest came forth, his garments, anointed with holy oil, shed a rich fragrance all about him. When describing the beauty of the character of Jesus, the inspired poet said, "All thy garments smell of Myrrh and Aloes and Cassia," and

so the Christian who has the anointing from the Holy One is to be recognized by the sweet fragrance of holy character, the life that is redolent with holy and heavenly influence.

There are eleven passages in the Bible connecting oil with light, Ex. 25:6; 27:20; 35:8, 14, 28; 39:37; Num. 4:9, 16; Lev. 24:2; Zech. 4:2-12; Matt. 25:3-6. The first eight are plain statements concerning the oil for the tabernacle light, which is, according to Old Testament typology, taken by an almost common consent as a prefiguration of the Holy Spirit.

In Zech. 4:2-12, Zerubbabel, confronted with a mountain of hindrance, is taught by the vision of a candle-stick fed by two inexhaustible ducts of oil from living olive-trees, that the hindrance should be removed by the Spirit of the Lord; so the church is a bearer of light, whose function is that of illumination, for which it depends wholly upon its supply of oil from God, which is His Spirit.

In Matt. 25:3-6, the oil in the lamps, as Stier ("Words of Jesus," Vol. III., page 311)

has said, "is, according to the general symbolism of Scripture, the Holy Spirit who nourishes the flame of life in the heart, which, without Him, holds merely a dry extinguished wick in the bowl." Such reference of the oil, as here used, to the Holy Spirit is in accordance with the common consensus of opinion. Oil is an illuminator, and so is the flame of spiritual life kindled within and kept burning by the oil of the Spirit illuminating the conscience and dispelling the moral darkness of the heart, shining out into the world through the light of Christian character unto the glory of the Christian's Father, Matt. 5:16.

The Oil of Joy.

This expression in Isa. 61:3 derives its significance from the custom of festive anointings at entertainments, Ps. 23:5, and on occasions of great rejoicing. So in Ps. 104:15, we read of "oil to make the face shine," but whether oil in such connection is ever used with figurative reference to the Holy Spirit is a question admitting of no certain solution. There is one passage in Heb. 1:9 declaring that Jesus was

“anointed with the oil of gladness above His fellows”; this “oil of gladness,” Smeaton, Cumming, Chapman, refer to the Holy Spirit, but this is in no wise certain. It refers to His exaltation, joy, the anointing being the setting apart to His kingly office (Stewart), or, which is more to be preferred, the crowning of the Sovereign with joy, as at a royal banquet (Westcott, Olshausen), and by scarcely a modern exegete is referred to the Holy Spirit, while many stoutly combat any such allusion; for instance, Meyer says, “The sense of the author is departed from when the fathers and early expositors interpret the expression of the anointing of the Son by the Holy Spirit”; and Olshausen says, “The anointing with oil of joy is not to be understood of the anointing to the office of king or prophet, or even of the anointing with the Holy Spirit in general, but the figurative expression is derived from the well-known custom of anointing the head at festivals.”

We do know that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of joy, Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:18, 19;

I Thes. 1:6; and the author of all spiritual gladness, and no figure could be more appropriately applied to Him than the "oil of gladness," but that such is the reference in the passage before us is hardly to be maintained.

VI. DOVE.

The Holy Spirit is so revealed once. In each of the gospels, Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; Jno. 1:32, it is mentioned that the Holy Spirit, in bodily shape, like a dove descended from Heaven and sat upon Jesus while He was praying. Whether before the time of Christ the dove was regarded as a symbol of the Holy Spirit is a question of much interest. The dove of Noah's ark and of Solomon's Song are conceived to be types of the church; among the Syrians the dove was considered as emblem of the fructifying powers of nature, and accordingly we find the Talmud translating in Gen. 1:2, "The Spirit of God like a dove brooded over the waters." But at the Lord's baptism, the Holy Spirit, by descending in bodily shape, like a dove upon

Jesus, established that gentle creature ever after as an emblem of Himself.

Think of the many beautiful characteristics of a dove. How lovely was the character of Jesus because of those dove-like traits, sweet-tempered and gentle, yet just like Him may we be. There is gentleness, tenderness, loveliness, innocence, mildness, peace, purity, patience, — all this and more for him in whose heart is made a place for the dove-like Spirit to nestle.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE RESISTANCE OF THE SPIRIT.



UNDER the above phrase standing as the title of this chapter, it has seemed wise to class all the sins against the Holy Spirit. We make a mistake in limiting the scope of a word by a solitary use of it in Scripture. A true theory must above all represent a consistent philosophy. Dr. Chapman ("Life of Blessing," page 79) and Dr. Morgan ("Spirit of God," page 237) have said that only the unregenerate resist the Holy Spirit, presumably because the only mention of resisting the Holy Spirit, where the word resist is used, refers to the unregenerate; but certainly there is no way to sin against the Holy Spirit, either by the Christian or the unbeliever, save by resisting Him.

So it is said only the Christian can grieve

Him, presumably because the only mention of grieving the Holy Spirit, where the word grieve is used, refers to the believer; but surely the tender, loving heart of God is grieved by the stubborn resistance of the unregenerate. It is hardly wise to go through Scripture on such straight lines, making divisions and establishing theories on the single use of an individual word. With this precaution, the several phrases setting forth the sins against the Holy Spirit may now be examined.

I. Resisting the Spirit. Used only once and of unregenerate persons, Acts 7:51. It consists in the resistance of the will to the purpose of the Spirit of God as manifested in His influence and His work. "There is an element," says Cumming (page 270), "even in a Christian, which often, if not always, is found in the same attitude against the Holy Spirit." He quotes, and rightly, Gal. 5:17. It is impossible to divorce the Ego from the sinful principle still within the Christian, and whenever this struggle goes on, even before

the better side has gained the victory, and especially when, alas, the evil side does, there is certainly a resistance to the will and work of the Holy Spirit.

2. Grieving the Spirit. Used only once and of Christians, Eph. 4:30. It means "to make sorrowful," discovers His personality and reveals His tenderness. "It is not strange," says Scofield ("Plain Papers on the Doctrine of the Spirit," page 54), "that some have found here the mother part of the divine love." The immediate reference is to corrupt speech, as is shown by the context and the close connecting Greek particle "and," but of course the truth must admit of a wider reference, "Whenever He is thwarted," says Morgan ("Spirit of God," page 242), "whenever He is disobeyed, whenever He gives some new revelation of the Christ which brings no response, He is grieved." In Isa. 63:10, the Holy Spirit is said to have been "vexed," as if he had become angry, and this thought Cumming ("Through the Eternal Spirit," page 271) prefers as that embodied in the

original. Indeed, the Septuagint renders it "made angry." Ps. 78:40, however, can hardly be quoted (Cumming) in confirmation of above rendering, if we keep in mind the personality of the Holy Spirit as distinct from God.

Although anger is closely connected with the thought resident in the word, as in Gen. 34:7, the form of the verb in Isa. 63:10 (Piel) demands the meaning "to cause acute pain," in which there is prominent the thought of "grieving," I Ki. 1:6; I Chron. 4:10, and in fact the Revised Version so translates. If the idea of vexing, in the sense of making angry, be excluded from the word, as used in the passage before us, it is noteworthy that nowhere in the Word is such a frame of disposition ascribed to the Holy Spirit; tender and loving, He may be grieved, but not angered. Can He be grieved away? By the unregenerate He can, in the sense that the Holy Spirit forever ceases to plead with him for a place in his heart. It is then that a man has passed beyond the limit of resistance, that

unseen line which Dr. J. Addison Alexander has called "The hidden boundary between God's patience and His wrath." But the regenerate He never leaves.

3. Quenching the Spirit, I Thes. 5:19, used only once and of Christians. It is a metaphorical expression for putting out a fire. It is impossible by candid exegesis to confine this to any one manifestation of the Holy Spirit. The most probable reference is to "prophesying," as noted in the verse following, that is, to the gift for service. We quench Him when we refuse to do His bidding; when we attempt service without waiting upon Him; when timidity keeps us from speaking the truth in response to His bidding. We cannot, however, thus limit the meaning of the injunction, as does Dr. Morgan ("Spirit of God," page 244). Of this particular reference in I Thes., exegesis makes us nowise certain, and, even if it did, the phrase would not necessarily be limited thereby. The "tongue of fire," Acts 2:3, was the symbol of power for service, but there was also a "baptism of fire,"

Matt. 3:11, conceived by many as the Holy Spirit given for purification, and in Isa. 4:4, as conceived by many (Smeaton, the "Doctrine of the Holy Spirit," page 32; Scofield, "Plain Papers on the Doctrine of the Spirit," page 57), He is called the "Spirit of burning," as a purifier, and both power for service and purity of life are effected by the presence and effort of the Holy Spirit within us. This would all be true even were no such figures used in the word. "To quench the Spirit, therefore, is to resist this twofold work of purification and of use" (Scofield, page 57). The quenching of the Spirit may properly be said to be an offence limited to the Christian.

4. Tempting the Spirit. The word "tempt" in this passage is better translated "try" or "test." It comes from "peirazo" and has a twofold meaning.

(I.) To try, to put to the test.

- (a) God tests men, Heb. 11:17.
- (b) Men test God, Acts 15:10 and 5:9.
- (c) Men test themselves, II Cor. 13:5.
- (d) Men test each other.

(II.) To tempt to sin. This is the work of the Evil One. God tempts no man, neither can He be tempted, Jas. 1:13. Peter said Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, Acts 5:3. He also says in the ninth verse they agreed to "test" the Holy Spirit. Now without any thought of the Holy Spirit, they may have agreed to lie to Peter, and Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, being His bearer and organ, rightly interpreted the attempted deception as practised not upon himself but upon the Spirit.

But since Peter, in verse nine, says they agreed together to test the Holy Spirit, and such conception implies a conscious act and deliberate purpose, and since so manifest was the Spirit's presence and power through the gift of discernment and tongues and physical manifestations, that the most thoughtless could not but be aware of His presence and of His power as resting especially upon the Apostles, and the possibility of His discovering to them the proposed deception would therefore naturally occur to them; it is certainly the more

probable solution of the occurrence, however Peter's statement may be explained, to conclude that, with the primal purpose of possibly gaining an enviable reputation or securing a maintenance (what it was must be conjectured), they planned to deceive Peter, which thing involved a testing of the Holy Spirit to which they deliberately gave themselves. Cumming ("Through the Eternal Spirit," page 273) says they tempted the Holy Spirit "to desert the church as His dwelling-place and resign His task," but hardly in this sense can the Holy Spirit be tempted.

Nowhere is it said that we tempt the Holy Spirit as that expression is construed by language or usage. There is mentioned, however, the sin of testing the Holy Spirit or God, distrusting His infinite perfections and putting Him to the test by our dispositions and actions. In the case of Ananias and Sapphira, it consisted primarily in testing His omniscience and His operation whether He would know of the deception and reveal it to Peter. Can the Christian test the Holy Spirit?

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Ananias doubted His punishment (whether the Holy Spirit would discover the deception, or do anything if He did); Christians have distrusted His readiness to bless. Ananias tested the former, which was a sinful thing to do; Christians test the latter, which is certainly a good thing to do. Prove Me, test Me, He says. Test, then, has a twofold meaning. It is doubtful whether a Christian ever tests God in the evil sense. Were Ananias and Sapphira Christians? Augustine and a multitude of others say yes. As many more say no. Nobody knows, but, if they were, their case could hardly argue anything for Christian experience to-day, as spiritual manifestations do not to-day furnish the same opportunity. The unregenerate test Him always, chiefly by distrusting His warning to leave them, upon continued resistance, in the hands of God for punishment, thus counting upon the long forbearance of God that He will save them in spite of their sin.

From the above, it is plain there is a difference between lying to the Holy Spirit and

testing the Holy Spirit, though both may belong to the same act. We may be said to lie to the Holy Spirit in a sense similar to that of Ananias in so much as we practise deception upon the church or upon the believer, indwelt as they are by the Spirit. Though to the Christian it may not at the time so appear, nor be thought of as intentionally directed against the Holy Spirit, yet in reality his sin has been not so much against the Spirit-filled man, as it has been against the Spirit filling the man. Certainly the Holy Spirit is grieved by all such resistance to His holy will.

5. Defiling the temple of the Spirit. A temple classically means "the dwelling-place of a Deity." The word is used twice in connection with the Holy Spirit, I Cor. 3: 16, 17, and 6: 19, the former referring to the church, — to Christians in their organized capacity, — and the latter to the Christian in his individual capacity. As by the Shechinah, God dwelt in and sanctified the Jewish temple, so by His Spirit He indwells and sanctifies the Christian temple.

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The word "defile," I Cor. 3: 16, is the same as "destroy" in the same verse, and means "to bring into a worse state," "to mar," "to injure" and then "destroy." In the Old Testament, any neglect of the temple, any desecration of it was considered as destroying it. We defile the temple of the Holy Spirit in its organized capacity (the church), in all the church strife and division (this is the primal reference in this third chapter of I Cor.), and in any perversion from its God-intended use. In 6: 19, "fornication," as a sin against the body, is under consideration, which body Paul calls a "temple of the Holy Spirit," inasmuch as the body is the vehicle and tabernacle of the human spirit, which is indwelt by the Spirit of God. We sin against the body as God's temple through every form of bodily abuse. In both these instances we are resisting and grieving the Holy Spirit.

As the lie, Acts 5: 3, need not necessarily be construed as directed deliberately against the Holy Spirit (it is impossible to analyze the minds of the sinning pair), so may the sins

against the temple be likewise considered. But as Peter, because filled with the Holy Spirit and acting for the Holy Spirit, construed the lie not as to him but in reality to the Holy Spirit, so sin against the Spirit-inhabited temple (church or believer) may be called, in fact must be, a sin against the Holy Spirit, even though, as in the case of the lie, the offending one may not have consciously so directed it.

6. Despising the Spirit, Heb. 10:29. A sin described by a word not elsewhere found in the New Testament. Literally it means to insult. It is used here as designating that insult and outrage offered to that blessed Spirit through whom all divine influences are conveyed to men. It here, Heb. 10:29, refers to the sin of apostasy, and is used in connection with the disposition and actions of those who, as elsewhere described, Heb. 6:4, 5, were once enlightened, and made partakers of the Holy Ghost, tasted of the heavenly gift, of the good word of God and the powers of the age to come.

By many scholars this sin has been made

identical with the blasphemy against the Spirit as set forth in the Gospels. In a certain sense this is true, both arising from the same disposition of soul, and both referring to a high degree of insolent and determined opposition to the wondrous unfolding and most manifest working of the Holy Spirit's power. A difference, however, appears in the character of the sinning subjects, the sin described in the Gospels being that of those who, from the beginning, had malignantly set themselves to oppose the divine power as manifested in the Son of God, the latter, as we have seen, being that of those who had to a high degree received His grace and acknowledged the truth of the Spirit's teaching. While the former, as often observed, is more malignant in its manifestations, the latter, considering the position and knowledge to which they had attained and the divine influences they had enjoyed, seems scarcely less diabolical. How solemn then is the warning of the Apostle against the commission of this awful crime, with which he brings the paragraph to a close, "It is a

fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

7. Blasphemy of the Spirit. The Unpardonable Sin. What is it? Who shall presume to say? Did not the Master leave it shrouded in certain mystery? We present herewith in clear outline the different opinions and such evidence as would seem to justify what to the writer appears the safest interpretation of Scripture as it bears on the solemn investigation before us.

In Matt. 12:31, 32, the Saviour says, "Wherefore I say unto you every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men; but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him, but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world nor in the world to come." In Mark 3:28-30, it is also written, "Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men and the blasphemies wherewithsoever they blaspheme;

but he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Spirit hath never forgiveness but is guilty of eternal sin; because they said, He hath an unclean Spirit"; and in Luke 12:10 is found, "And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man it shall be forgiven him; but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Spirit it shall not be forgiven."

Before adverting to the different interpretations, certain helpful observations and distinctions may properly and with profit be noticed here.

(1) Every sin is a sin against the Holy Spirit, though far from approaching the nature of this one inexpressible sin which Jesus calls blasphemy against the Spirit. The name "Sin against the Spirit" is therefore open to misunderstanding, and should give place to the proper designation used by Jesus.

(2) The word translated "blasphemy" (either from βλάπτω, to injure, and φήμη speech; or from βλάξ, braggart, stupid, and φήμη speech), originally means malicious speaking against sacred things, and is used

of different degrees of sinning, up to the blasphemy of Jehovah in the Old Testament and the Holy Spirit in the New.

(3) Jesus evidently had in mind the unpardonable offense of the Old Testament dispensation, where, in Lev. 24:16, it is stated (R. V.), "He that blasphemeth the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death." Under this law Stephen was stoned, but by so much is the grace of the New Testament dispensation superior that blasphemy against God shall be forgiven, yea, He even goes on to say that he who "speaketh against" the Son of Man shall be forgiven, but the speaking against the Holy Spirit, — such blasphemy but sounds the sinner's eternal doom.

We see no objection, therefore, to Olshausen's distinction of three degrees in the sin of blasphemy: that against the Father, against the Son, and against the Holy Spirit. But to find the ground for such gradation in the relative rank of the three persons in the Godhead is entirely without warrant. By such arrangement the Father would stand the low-

est in the Trinity. The aggravation of the crime is determined not by the rank of the object blasphemed, but by the added clearness of the revelation of God given to man through the revelation of the Spirit, in proportion to which the sin is all the more conscious and determined.

It is safe to say the view which makes this sin possible only when Christ was visibly present among men (Menken, Jerome, Chrysostom) has little, if anything, in its favor. Saul was a blasphemer, I Tim. 1 : 13, and the Jews crucified Jesus after the resurrection of Lazarus, but they did it in the ignorance of unbelief. Saul was pardoned, and of the Jews Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do"; but the more comprehensive and convincing the "greater works," John 14 : 12, of this day, the more powerful the convictions of the Spirit who was to come in such capacity after Christ, the less possible does the plea of ignorance become, and the more possible the terrible crime in question. The unpardon-

able sin, Stier has well said, is "preëminently the sin of the last time."

With these observations before us, we now inquire into the nature of the sin itself.

The various explanations, while differing much in their specific interpretation, are, after all, as we hope to make clear, but the emphasis of different sides of the same truth. They may be arranged under two general heads.

1. Those which make it some definite thing the sinner has done.

2. Those which make it a state of soul to which he has arrived. Let us now analyze these two views. The first may again be conveniently divided as follows:

(1) Those making it one particular sin, as ascribing the miracle of Jesus to Satan. That this is the sin, Wesley declares "nothing is more clear in the Bible." Since the days of miracles are past, says Broadus, therefore the unpardonable sin can no longer be committed. Christ, however, did not say the Pharisees had committed this sin, and the most that can be positively argued is that their conduct proved

them well on the way toward it. Mark 3:30 does not necessarily impute the sin unto them. "Because they say He had an unclean Spirit" may be simply the ground on which He based the warning. However, though this be true, we are inclined to believe with Meyer, Broadus, Delitzsch, and others, that they did commit the sin in question, though this, of course, must remain doubtful. That they could be warned against it is to some (Stier, Lange, Chadwick) argument they had not committed it; but could not those solemn words have sounded their doom as well as warned them of impending danger? To some, Christ's prayer on the cross argues they had not committed it; it is said that if the crucifiers, with all their evidence from a three years' ministry, knew not what they were doing, scarcely could these who thus far had only eighteen months of it. It does not appear, and yet the instance before us had its peculiar aggravations, while even Christ's last prayer could have its general reference without including some, even many, who stood within the sound of it. However, if this alle-

gation of the Pharisees was an instance of the sin in question, how does it follow with Wesley that it can be "this and nothing more?" Might this not have been but one instance of it? The occasion made this utterance the natural expression of their wicked hearts, but could not the same sinful disposition have prompted and prompt to-day other utterances just as heinous, and so leave the soul subject to the same fearful condemnation? The blasphemous utterance was the occasion of the Saviour's fearful declaration; it was, we are strongly inclined to believe, an instance of this most fearful of crimes, but that such crime must be confined to this one particular ascription, we can gather no semblance of worthy proof from the pages of Scripture.

(2) Another shade of opinion under this same general view is that the sin consists in any blasphemous utterance of sufficient malignity and heinousness to deserve the condemnation given it by the Saviour. This is certainly an advance over the preceding opinion; it has not only in its favor equally with the other

the derivative meaning of blasphemy (a malicious verbal utterance), but also the almost universal concession that blasphemy against the Spirit is not something directed against the Spirit personally. The Jews had no thought of malice against the Holy Spirit; it was all directed against Christ. Why should it be any more harmful to speak a word against the Spirit than to speak against either of the other persons of the Godhead? It is not the rank of the Person, but the increased clearness of revelation as furnished by the Spirit, in the face of which a man knowingly and wilfully sins, that aggravates the crime and makes it unpardonable. Blasphemy against God and the Son of Man is pardonable, but blasphemy against the Father or the Son is also unpardonable, if committed under the above noticed conditions, for by that very fact it becomes blasphemy against the Spirit.

That the blasphemy must, however, according to the etymology of the word, manifest itself in some verbal expression is the distinguishing characteristic of the present opinion,

and the condition which J. J. Owen and others have made imperative to its correct interpretation.

(3) There is yet a third shade of opinion belonging to this same general view, namely, that this sin is any act, verbal or otherwise, of equal malignity and heinousness with such utterances as have been under consideration. This has the etymology of the word blasphemy against it. The Saviour said it was injurious speaking against the Spirit that was unpardonable, and a rigid consistency with the letter would compel us at once to reject the opinion now before us. It is not unreasonable to suppose that every malicious and wilful opposer of Christ will manifest his opposition in verbal expression, and all other cases of unpardonable sinning noted in the Word may, we believe, be seen at least to include such manifestation; but is such strict adherence to the letter either necessary or wise? Certainly deeds are as damnable as words, and dispositions as contemptible as verbal expressions, and with certain propriety we may speak of a man's con-

duct being blasphemous as well as anything he might say. Thus we hear Whedon, Oettinger, and others declaring that blasphemy may as truly be committed in thought or in act as in speech, and may rather be defined as the offering a presumptuous insult to God.

The arguments in favor of the first general view are:

I. The Saviour's words undoubtedly had particular reference to something the Pharisees did.

II. He expressly said that doing something (speaking against the Holy Spirit) was the Unpardonable Sin.

III. In a very certain sense, it is a thing done, a word expressed, a deed committed, a thought entertained that must be subject or not to divine clemency. If by a state expositors mean a condition of soul, this God would have remedied but not forgiven.

If, now, the first general view be accepted, the first shade of opinion under it we decidedly reject; the second is favored by the etymology of the word; the third, which includes the

other two, is favored by the very nature of sin in general, by the spirit rather than the letter of the term blasphemy, and by reasonable inference from all other Scripture bearing upon the sin in question. If the sin, therefore, be understood as something done, the last mentioned opinion is decidedly preferable. A final conclusion, however, must be reserved until we have examined the other general view, namely, that the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is a state of soul to which the man, by repeated sinning, has arrived. Here mention should be made of the opinion of Augustin, who made the sin in question to be "Final Independence." This was the view also of Guthrie and of Chalmers, and is held by a few to-day. With this view Professor Smeaton, of Edinburgh, coincides. It is, however, strenuously opposed by the vast majority of modern scholars. What is it but the substitution of a foregone conclusion for the disposition that made it inevitable?

To this second general class belongs Calvin, and following him almost uniformly the Re-

formed divines, who make this state to be one of wilful and malicious opposition to the most convincing evidence as furnished by the Holy Spirit. A few of the definitions that may properly be classed here are as follows: *Riddle*, — “A state of wilful determined opposition in the presence of light to the power of the Holy Spirit, virtually a moral suicide, a killing of the conscience, so that the human spirit is absolutely insusceptible to the influences of the Holy Spirit.” *Oosterzee*, — “Conscious and stubborn hatred against God and that which is divine as it exists in its highest development.” *Stier*, — “We regard the Unpardonable Sin — of which Christ was led to speak from a special occasion, so that He characterized it according to one of its expressions — not merely in this or that other of its manifold expressions, but in its deepest ground, — it is the rejection of the perfectly known, immediate testimony of the Spirit developed in a human being till it brings him to the same nature with Satan.” *Oettinger*, — “Perpetual impenitence and incredulity even

to the end, which, from a rebellious and most obstinate repudiation of the testimony of the Holy Spirit manifesting Himself in the Gospel and working in the hearts of men, confess to light set forth through word and deed in blaspheming the Holy Spirit."

Now what is meant by the state of the soul? We have used the term soul as the more general and designative of the psychical man to which the powers of the mind and heart appertain. We speak of the state of a man's health; the state of his body, sound or unsound; and so we speak of the state of a man's soul as being one of spiritual insusceptibility, dead and incapable of spiritual impression. This state or condition of the soul may properly be distinguished from the principle of sin within the man; it is resultant condition of the unrestrained operation of that principle, and like the principle is not subject to divine pardon. God never forgives principles; He never forgives a state as just conceived; it must be subject to cure rather than to pardon. The principle of sin (sin in its root) in a man

manifests itself first in simple indifference to the claims and strivings of the Spirit (what Nitzsch calls "passive neutrality"); this might be called the defensive attitude, simply resisting the Spirit. In some cases certain elements and conditions contrive to change this indifference into an active opposition; the principle of sin no longer merely resists but begins to oppose; it takes up an offensive attitude, and, as this active antagonism increases, growing more confirmed and more hateful with advancing years, the soul hardens, and as a consequence of it loses its religious susceptibility, which condition marks the limit toward which every unconverted man is tending, and beyond which he cannot go and be in a savable condition. It is that, —

"—— bourne by us unseen,
By which each path is crossed,
Beyond which God Himself hath sworn
That he who goes is lost."

Herein is one way of conceiving of the state of the soul, but may we not with equal propriety conceive of this condition as productive

of the outward expression whereby the inner disposition becomes manifest to the world? In fact, so most expositors speak of it. Attempt has been made to distinguish between the state of the soul as a condition and a disposition. This may be done, but it tends rather to obscure than to clarify, and involves the inquirer himself in a state of psychological confusion. In the last analysis, the hardened condition of the soul is nothing less nor more than the disposition of confirmed obdurateness. It is the hardened mind that antagonizes, the hardened heart that hates what is divine, and, when we speak of religious insusceptibility, we can properly mean nothing more than one characteristic of the inner man, to whom such state of soul pertains. It at once becomes evident, therefore, that whether we speak of the Unpardonable Sin as an act or as a state of sin, it is but one or the other of two ways of referring to the same thing. The former defines the sin in terms of the fruit of the tree; the latter defines it in terms of the tree itself (Matt. 12: 33, 34).

Although in Christ's solemn declaration there may have been, and doubtless was, the intentional reference to an individual actual sin, it is plain that as such it could not exist save as the veriest acme of a sinful development of what Julius Muller calls "an accumulated degeneracy of the moral condition," for certainly, says this same scholar in his profound work on the "Christian Doctrine of Sin" (page 476, Vol. II.), "this sin is not a merely outward act, as if, by the secret magic of certain words which do not emanate from the depths of the heart, one could commit the worst sin and consign himself immediately to eternal perdition."

In view of all which, it must be clear that it is the condition of the man rather than any action that makes his case hopeless, and that therefore it must be in respect to this crime as all others, as Stier has well said, "the internal sin as such that is judged, though apprehended and convicted in its expression." The above distinction is of course necessary in any attempted analysis of the sin in question, or

any other sin, but that in definition it should result in defining the sin in one aspect to the exclusion of the other is not only unnecessary, but unfortunate and unwise. Delitzsch has expressed himself in a way that ought to meet with entire approval. He says, "It is not the individual word of blasphemy itself, or the individual deed of blasphemous opposition, but these taken in connection with the disposition of mind which is manifested in them, that constitutes the Unpardonable Sin."

Whether forgiveness would be denied, if craved, is a useless inquiry, since the sin is unpardonable, not on God's account, but on the sinner's account, for he is, as Riddle says, "virtually a moral suicide," having forever killed his conscience and destroyed his religious susceptibility and removed himself from the possibility of ever asking forgiveness. Repentance is the gift of God, and the unpardonable sinner has driven from him the only person who could ever work repentance in his heart.

Another question of the present investiga-

tion pertains to the more exact nature of the disposition which drew upon it the fearful judgment of Christ. It was not only that of confirmed resistance to the Spirit, as we have tried to show, but a malicious and hateful antagonism of the Spirit (Muller, Stier, Grashof, Calvin). Such certainly is to be gathered from all other passages descriptive of the sin, and such certainly was the disposition of the blaspheming Jews in the Gospels. It was, as Stier has said, "the consummated sin of the devil." Their repudiation of the Christ was made in the presence of the clearest light; but to have acknowledged this man to be the Christ would have been to repudiate their past and to have sacrificed their cause, and this, with diabolical meanness, they resolved they would not do. They will escape the necessity of believing; deny the fact (the cure), they cannot; interpret it, they will; they will ascribe it to the power of the devil. False and absurd, hateful and hellish, but what matter, let Judaism be saved, be the consequence what it may!!!! It was an opposition that was

conscious, determined, prolonged, hateful, — a voluntary closing their eyes to the most abundant light, and this with most malicious intent.

Grasping the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, therefore, for its complete characterization both in the tree and the fruit thereof, Matt. 12: 33, 34, and still in harmony with Christ's apprehension of it in one of its expressions, we would define the Unpardonable Sin as the blasphemous manifestation in word or deed of an internal state of soul to which a man has arrived by a continued resistance and increasing opposition to the clearest and most undoubted revelation of God's Spirit, which state, when once attained, is one of contemptuous and malicious hatred of all that pertains to the Son of God, and which by its very nature is bound to manifest itself as such.

With this we believe a fair exegesis of all other passages relating to this sin will agree. Since the Saviour said that all other sins but this were pardonable, it is at once evident that all other cases of fatal sinning mentioned in

the word must be identical and harmonious with the one of which the Saviour speaks (so most authority), I John 5:16; II Tim. 3:8; Jude 12, 13; Heb. 6:4-8; 10:26-31.

Two questions remain for brief notice. The first is, Who commits the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? Some answer, "The regenerate only." But if the Jews to whom Jesus spoke concerning this sin were guilty of it, as we are inclined to believe, to what a destructive enervation of the idea contained in the new birth must this opinion lead. Even if they did not commit it, the mere fact that, as unregenerate men, they could be warned as well on the way toward it is entirely subversive of the opinion just expressed. Others, while admitting what is beyond doubt the fact, that the unregenerate commit the sin, also urge the opinion that it may be committed by the regenerate, and employ in defense of their position the passages in Heb. 6:4-8; 10:26-31, as descriptive of the once regenerate. These passages in Hebrews refer to apostasy, the way to which lay through the sin we have been

discussing; this we may maintain beyond a reasonable doubt, but, as to the former character of the persons described, we find ourselves confronted with the never-to-be-settled question so long disputed by the chief schools of theological thought; the Calvinistic on the one side and the Lutheran and Arminian on the other. Into this question it is not the purpose of these pages to enter. The unregenerate, and we are inclined to think only the unregenerate, may commit the Unpardonable Sin.

The other question is, Will a proper understanding of the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, the alone unpardonable sin, permit of its identification with the grieving away of the Spirit through a simple indifference to His claims and strivings, as is so often represented in the preaching of to-day?

There is manifestly a difference between a state of confirmed indifference and one of malicious and hateful antagonism, though both are evidently phases of the same moral obliquity, and, in harmony with the discussion of

this subject as set forth in the preceding pages, a negative answer we feel should be given to the above question.

Gurlitt characterizes the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit as "contemptuous indifference to what is divine and holy." Just wherein lies the exact point of transition between sin of lesser culpability and the blasphemy against the Spirit, no mortal mind can ever tell, but contemptuously declaring, in the face of the clearest and most convincing light, the redemption of Christ, the things of the Spirit to be matters of indifference, to be, in fact, foolishness, — who will say that such a thing is not of sufficient culpability in itself to merit the judgment of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? But this is different from that simple indifference to the claims of the Spirit, which continues increasingly in the lives of so many about us until they are at last seemingly lost to all impression.

That a high degree of spiritual enlightenment is necessary to the committal of the blasphemy against the Spirit, we have already

seen, which fact is clearly set forth by such Scriptural passages as are descriptive of it, and some have argued, and not without force, that under such circumstances simple indifference is impossible; a clear conception of moral good implies an imperative; to be convicted of the truth, they say, demands its acceptance or its wilful and scornful rejection.

Again, others have stoutly contended against the thought that a man, through simple indifference, can ever become completely insensible to spiritual impression. To whom is it given to say? But that simple indifference may so culminate seems to be reasonable, merely as the result of natural law in the spiritual world. That law is, if a man will not see, he shall not see.

The neglect to use a faculty for its God-given purpose means its final atrophy. One need not break his arm to destroy its powers; simply tie it to the side and leave it there long enough; bandage the eye long enough, and it will lose forever its power to see; stop the ears long enough, and they will become sound-

less forever; harden the heart long enough, and it will lose forever its capacity to feel. If this is true, and a man becomes "past feeling," Eph. 4: 19, through continued indifference, although his condition would be equally hopeless with that of the blasphemer of the Spirit (and for this reason so many have identified them), the distinguishing feature would be not alone in the nature of the states in question, but that the blasphemy against the Spirit, as seen in the case of the blaspheming Jews, is characterized in its outward expression as the fruit of a malicious disposition, while this other has its reference solely to the condition of the man himself.

It is evident, whether we identify or distinguish the two forms of sinfulness under discussion, that one is equally as fatal as the other, and it is certainly true that sinful development in the case of every sinner must, unless arrested by Redemption, complete itself in such a condition of soul as forever settles the sinner's doom.

"There is a time, we know not when,
A place we know not where,
That marks the destiny of men,
For glory or despair.

"There is a line by us unseen,
That crosses every path;
The hidden boundary between
God's patience and His wrath.

"To pass that limit is to die,
To die as if by stealth;
It does not quench the beaming eye,
Or pale the glow of health.

"The conscience may be still at ease,
The spirits light and gay;
That which is pleasing still may please,
And care be thrust away.

"But on that forehead God has set
Indelibly a mark —
Unseen by man, for man as yet
Is blind and in the dark.

"And still the doomed man's path below
May bloom as Eden bloomed —
He did not, does not, will not know,
Or feel that he is doomed.

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“ He knows, he feels that all is well,
And every fear is calmed ;
He lives, he dies, he wakes in hell,
Not only doomed but damned.

“ Oh, where is this mysterious bourne
By which our path is crossed :
Beyond which God Himself hath sworn,
That he who goes is lost?

“ How far may men go on in sin?
How long will God forbear?
Where does hope end and where begin
The confines of despair?

“ An answer from the skies is sent :
‘ Ye that from God depart,
While it is called to-day, repent,
And harden not your heart ! ’ ”

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